

Editorial

Natalie Spearing • Editor

Health care professionals are expected to remain abreast of new developments and must be able to rely on the quality of the information they have access to. The peer review process is instrumental in ensuring that *Australian Infection Control* (AIC) consistently delivers published material that is reliable and of high quality. Peer review is integral to developing and maintaining reader confidence and, ultimately, to the success of the journal.

The peer review process is a well-recognised means of ensuring that standards of published material are maintained. Articles submitted to AIC have undergone this process for several years. Three reviewers perform a critical review of each submission to determine whether it meets the criteria for publication in AIC. All peer reviews are carried out anonymously in a 'double-blind' process that aims to provide fair and unbiased results.

Currently, members of the Editorial Board of AIC conduct peer reviews. However, as the journal expands and the number and variety of submissions increases, access to a broader range of reviewers is needed. To meet this need and support the work of the Editorial Board members, a Review Panel will be established, comprising infection control practitioners, infectious diseases physicians, epidemiologists and microbiologists, as well as people from such fields as public health, quality, risk management, occupational health and safety, clinical research and education.

Readers interested in applying for membership on the Review Panel can view the criteria and general responsibilities associated with peer review on the AICA website. Applications or nominations can be made to the Editor. A list of all persons who conduct reviews in each calendar year will be published in the December issue of AIC.

Maintaining a high standard of journal content through peer review is a pre-requisite to inclusion in international electronic indices such as CINAHL and Medline®. Indexation is recognition that a journal produces publications worthy of broad dissemination. Once this occurs, journal articles become accessible to a wide audience, increasing the profile

of both the author(s) and the journal which, in turn, attracts further submissions. Once this cycle commences, the reputation and quality of a journal inevitably improves. AIC is now indexed on Australasian Medical Index (AMI) and CINAHL indexation is pending. This is good news, indicating that we have embarked upon that journey.

In 2000, peer reviews were conducted for *Australian Infection Control* by the following:

- Chen Anderson
- Mary Beers
- Frances Birrell
- Judy Bowmaker
- Megan Breust
- Joan Faoagali
- Ann Maree Ford
- Glenn Gardner
- Deborah MacBeth
- Mary-Louise McLaws
- Raylee Pandur
- John Pearman
- Gabby Robathan
- Elaine Graham-Robertson
- Paul Smollen
- Denis Spelman
- Mike Whitby
- Pauline Woodburn
- Irene Wilkinson

Assistant Editors: Australian Infection Control

Australian Infection Control requires AICA members interested in becoming directly involved in the production of the journal.

Assistant Editors are needed for the following areas:

- diary of events
- coordinating book reviews
- performing searches of other publications for articles of interest to AIC readers (Journal Watch).

For further information, please contact Natalie Spearing at <nspearin@mater.org.au>.

Errata – AIC Spring 2000, Vol 5 Issue 3

The authors, E Jones, G Gardner and D Olesen, wish to acknowledge the Queensland Nurses' Union for provision of funding instrumental to the completion of the research project. The authors regret any inconvenience related to the omission of this acknowledgement.

In the process of printing/publication, a formatting error occurred on page 27 in the section *Definitions for the three different types of SSI - 1. Superficial incisional*. In the third dot point, there should be four indentations, the last (fourth) one reading *diagnosis or antimicrobial treatment of superficial incisional SSI by the operating surgeon or registrar*. This inadvertently was included in the third indentation. The publishers apologise for any confusion.