



## EDITORIAL

# Seeing problems from different perspectives

Long-term readers of JBMT will be familiar with an insistent theme that has recurred over the 9 years since the first issue (October 1996)—multidisciplinary approaches, together with the evolving concept of integration.

For the first few years of publication JBMT carried a regular feature entitled '*Clinical Perspectives*'. In this feature, in each issue, a particular topic was explored and evaluated, from a variety of professional points of view.

For example, in July 1997 (issue 1(4):198–214) the topic was Temporomandibular dysfunction, and input was given from the perspectives of neuromuscular therapy, holistic dentistry, chiropractic and Traditional Chinese Medicine. Out of this emerged a range of observations and possibilities, that it was hoped would allow the reader to view problems of this sort in a more rounded manner than can always be obtained from one perspective alone. Judging from reader feedback this was indeed the case.

Regrettably after approximately 5 years of initially constant, and latterly more intermittent, appearances this feature was dropped, largely because of the scale of the logistical and organisational difficulties of co-ordinating the input of an ever-changing cast of contributors.

It is hoped however, over the coming year or so, that there will be a periodic reappearance of such a feature in JBMT, albeit in a modified format.

An example of what that format might look like is to be found in this issue in an article entitled 'Case study in Integrative Medicine'.

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In this a case is discussed of a female patient (Hannah T.) who has a variety of symptoms, including chronic fatigue. The perspectives that evaluate her case include mind–body medicine,

holistic medicine, functional medicine and East Asian Medicine. What emerges is a fascinating analysis of the choices that are available when a common problem is evaluated from widely different conceptual as well as clinical traditions.

Doubtless an even more wide-ranging variety of disciplines could have offered other points of view, for example, homeopathy and osteopathic medicine.

In what is proposed for a return of this type of feature to JBMT the focus will naturally be tilted towards 'bodywork and movement therapies', however—as in the TMJ article in 1997, where TCM and dentistry views accompanied the neuromuscular and chiropractic opinions, a wider net will be spread, so that our vision is not demonstrated to be solely structural.

JBMT's commitment to an integrated and multidisciplinary model is also to be seen in the conferences that we have either sponsored or cosponsored.

In April 2006 (21–24), in collaboration with the University of Westminster, JBMT is sponsoring a multidisciplinary conference on the broad theme of *Understanding Trauma & Adaptation*. Among the excellent keynote speakers, who will each also host a one day pre- or post-conference workshop, are the following : James Oschman, Ph.D. (Trauma and tissue memory); John Upledger, DO (Craniosacral approaches to post-traumatic stress disorders); Nancy Byl, Ph.D. (Aberrant learning in individuals who perform repetitive skilled hand movements : Musicians with focal hand dystonia); Joanna Fisher, Ph.D. (Integrating body-oriented approaches into traditional therapy); Craig Morris, DC (Conservative management of athletic injuries—an integrated physical and psychological approach); Donald Murphy, DC (Whiplash: integrating the biomechanical, neurological and psychological and emotional factors in treatment); Raja Selvam, Ph.D. (Introduction to Peter

Levine's Somatic Experiencing: Psychophysiological approaches to resolving trauma).

The conference (and the workshops) will be held in central London at the University of Westminster, and will be chaired by Professor David Peters, Ch.B., DO, and facilitated by JBMT's, editor.

If you are interested please log-on to [www.JBMTconference.elsevier.com](http://www.JBMTconference.elsevier.com).

In June 2006 JBMT's biannual North American interdisciplinary conference will be held in Albuquerque, N. Mexico, and will once again be organised by the Upledger Organisation and The

International Alliance of Healthcare Educators (IAHE). For more information, within the USA call 1-800-311-9204; from abroad call ++1 561 622 4334).

We can all learn from each other, and this remains the heart of JBMT's mission.

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