

Editorial

Welcome to the December 2023 edition of the APCP journal – our first wholly online edition!

In March 2023 APCP National Committee, in line with the APCP five-year plan, made the decision to move to an '**online only**' version of the journal. This decision was taken in response to feedback from membership and to reduce the environmental impact associated with a print journal. Coupled with the move to online, two other significant changes were agreed:

- (1) Firstly, submissions that are accepted for publication in the APCP journal will now have a **digital object identifier** (DOI). A DOI is a string of letters, numbers and symbols used to identify an object uniquely and persistently. Providing DOI's for manuscripts and material published in the APCP journal will allow them to be accessed and cited reliably.
- (2) Secondly, the APCP journal will be **open access**, that is, content accepted for publication will be freely available online to all, with no access fees.

We anticipate that these initiatives will collectively improve the discoverability of the excellent work submitted to the journal, improve citations of APCP journal publications, increase submissions to the journal, and raise the profile of the journal nationally and internationally. It seems fitting that we are introducing these significant changes, and hopefully increasing the reach of the APCP journal, in this 50th year of our professional network.

We continue to have an open submission process across the year; however, manuscripts will be published online as they are accepted, rather than waiting until June or December as was traditional with a print format journal. As before, all manuscripts are subjected to independent peer review. We welcome original research papers (quantitative and qualitative), literature reviews, case studies, case series, service evaluations, audits, translation studies, quality improvement reports and study protocols. If you are considering a submission, please check out the guidance on the [journal webpages](#) or contact the journal via e-mail – journal@apcp.org.uk.

This edition of the journal includes two papers focusing on posture in children and young people with neurodisabilities. George and colleagues provide a robust evaluation of the psychometric properties of an assessment tool designed to assess graded changes in total body alignment deviation, the Clinical Assessment of Body Alignment, whereas Crozier et al explore caregivers' perceptions of the barriers and facilitators to engaging in formal 24-hour postural management training for children with cerebral palsy and other neurodisabilities. These studies provide evidence of the need for robust assessment, evaluation, and consideration of caregiver capacity in postural management in this population that will be of relevance to many APCP members.

We are also delighted to include the abstracts of the papers and posters presented at the 2023 APCP annual conference and hope that you will enjoy reading about the wide range of research and service development activities that are current in paediatric physiotherapy. We would encourage the authors of the abstracts to consider developing their work into a full paper for the journal.

Finally, as is traditional at this time of year, I would like to especially acknowledge the authors, reviewers and APCP administrators for their continued support, expertise, and enthusiasm with our journal. We look forward to continued submissions and success in 2024.

Claire Kerr