

Editorial

This issue of the Malta Medical Journal provides a wealth of information of value to healthcare professionals and service providers in Malta. Two articles deal with the different aspects of paediatric and adult obesity. Buttigieg et al tackle the issue of maternal perception as well as parental attitudes and awareness of issues related to childhood obesity. Sammut et al provide data pertinent to the diagnosis and management of obesity in adults in the community by auditing a busy family practice. Such data are essential to increase local awareness of the obesity epidemic as well as provide information crucial for the planning of obesity related medical services and for establishing important targets for prevention in health promotion initiatives. An Obesity Strategy was launched this year under the auspices of the Ministry of Health after a process of consultation with different stakeholders and widespread discussion in a forum that included health care professionals, service providers and consumers.

An article by Aquilina looks at the legal aspects of human organ transplantation and the standards proposed by the EU.

With increasing patient and staff mobility as well as the EU commitment to ensuring equitable access to all EU citizens and cross-border health initiatives, ongoing informed discussion is essential to developments in this area.

Guidelines are essential to ensuring standardisation and quality of care and Attard et al discuss this with reference to cerebral function monitoring in neonates. Two interesting case reports provide readers with practical information about the management of conditions as diverse as bilateral vocal cord paralysis and coeliac crisis. In conclusion the historical perspective in this issue deals with blood transfusion and blood banking in Malta.

Compiling each issue of the Journal regularly highlights the wealth and diversity of pathology and information encountered by health care professionals in the course of practising medicine in Malta. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be able to disseminate this information to the medical community and I wish to thank all contributing authors for submitting their work for consideration for publication in the Malta Medical Journal.

Josanne Vassallo
Editor, Malta Medical Journal