

## Editor's Notes

*A fine issue we have for you!*

A brief communication by Selvakumar *et al.* is devoted to the importance of including biomedical ethics courses in health education institutes, and the development, implementation and evaluation of such a course is described by Al-Jalahma *et al.* Two other new teaching initiatives are addressed: from a literature and medicine course, intended to teach empathy to first year students by Shapiro *et al.*, to a Discursive Practices approach for adding context to cases for Problem-Based Learning practices, by Yamada *et al.*

Lehmann *et al.* address Action Research as a fine example of how a research method can immediately be used as a tool to develop new skills among health workers.

El Shallaly lets us know about an efficient way of combining the OSCE characteristics with the cost-effectiveness of video-projection to a large group.

Finally, I am proud to announce four effect studies: clinical contacts gave first year students a highly esteemed insight in the activities of their future profession (McLean); a workshop in interviewing skills with an, at first sight surprising, impact on students' self-evaluation scores (Fadlon *et al.*); the effect of a workshop on the under-acknowledged skills of written communications in medical school (Nestel *et al.*) and a study into the effect of community based medical education as perceived by community leaders (Omotara *et al.*)!

You can see that this gives a nice variety of issues, relevant and applicable across many institutions.

Moreover, I would like to point out that the articles in this issue come from all over the world: from Hawaii to Nigeria and from South Africa to the United Kingdom! It shows that the innovations and research in health professions education are universal, and that many creative solutions to similar problems are found.

In our regular sections there are some very interesting pieces as well. In the "Community Voices" piece there is an interview with community people from Maastricht about the Hartslag project in the Netherlands, an interview with a Brazilian student in the "Student's Voices" piece, and "The News from The Network: TUFH" section addresses both a medical education conference in Europe and the 2003 Network: TUFH conference in Australia. Also, of course,

there are the sections on “Book Reviews”, “In the News”, “Further Reading”, the useful International Diary and, of course, an Editorial by our Editor, Dr R. Richards. I wish you therefore much inspiration and pleasure with issue 1 of the 17th volume of *Education for Health*!

Jan van Dalen  
Associate Editor, *Education for Health*