EDITORIALS

556 Challenges in cancer control in Australia
Ian N Olver

557 Rheumatic fever and social justice
Alex Brown, Malcolm I McDonald, Tom Calma

RESEARCH

560 Experience with cardiac valve operations in Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait Islands, Australia
Anna McLean, Michael Waters, Emma Spencer, Clive Hadfield

565 The epidemiology of invasive group A streptococcal disease in Victoria, Australia

570 Job satisfaction of staff and the team environment in Australian general practice
Mark F Harris, Judy G Proudfoot, Upali W Jayasinghe, Christine H Holton, Gawaine P Powell Davies, Cheryl L Amoroso, Tanya K Bubner, Justin J Beilby

574 A case for universal salt iodisation to correct iodine deficiency in pregnancy: another salutary lesson from Tasmania
John R Burgess, Judy A Seal, Georgina M Stilwell, Peter J Reynolds, E Roscoe Taylor, Venkat Parameswaran

Ignacio Correa-Velez, Vijaya Sundararajan, Kaye Brown, Sandra M Gifford

POSITION STATEMENT

581 An Australian guideline for rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease: an abridged outline
Jonathan R Carapetis, Alex Brown, Nigel J Wilson, Keith N Edwards, on behalf of the Rheumatic Fever Guidelines Writing Group

MEDICINE AND THE COMMUNITY

587 New money for mental health: will it make things better for rural and remote Australia?
James A Dunbar, Ian B Hickie, John Wakerman, Prasuna Reddy

591 The role of family and maternal factors in childhood obesity
Lisa Y Gibson, Susan M Byrne, Elizabeth A Davis, Eve Blair, Peter Jacoby, Stephen R Zubrick

THE PROFESSION

596 Medical professionalism: is it really under threat?
Kerry J Breen

DIAGNOSTIC DILEMMAS

602 Brucellosis mimicking Henoch–Schönlein purpura
David Massasso, Kathryn Gibson

LETTERS

605 (contents overleaf)
From the Editor’s Desk

AN EDICT FROM THE MOTHERLAND

From the first days of European settlement, our colonies were bombarded with bureaucratic edicts from the Motherland, until Federation and Australia’s emergence as a proud and independent nation put an end to our dependency.

But the Motherland’s long-lost role was recently revived in an editorial in *The Lancet* entitled Australia: the politics of fear and neglect.* Short, simplistic and sensational, it proclaimed that Australia’s progressive and inclusive culture was burdened by a dark underbelly of political conservatism.

It further asserted that the Australian Government had effectively silenced dissent in the scientific community, and propagated a political view “that those who spoke up for indigenous health were simply ‘establishing politically and morally correct credentials’”. To top it off, the Prime Minister was portrayed as ruthlessly exploiting Australia’s strong undercurrent of political conservatism.

And *The Lancet*’s solution? Gratuitous advice to oust the conservatives at this year’s federal election and usher in a new era of “enlightenment” for Australian health and medical science!

Significantly, the editorial was silent on the concerted efforts of dedicated Australian researchers and doctors working to improve Indigenous health, and the fearless advocacy of this goal by various professional bodies and this Journal. Despite *The Lancet*’s assertion of “silenced” scientists, its editorial was strangely silent on the conservative government’s unprecedented investment in health and medical research.

Following *The Lancet*’s edict, a commentary in *The Australian* warned scientific and medical journals not to engage in politics† and put their public standing, independence and integrity at risk. As long as there remain unresolved issues in the delivery of health care to all Australians, requiring political attention and action, the MJA will never heed this injunction.

But, in pursuit of this goal, the recent edict from London is hardly an example to emulate.

Martin B Van Der Weyden

---

LETTERS

Finger fracture mitral valvuloplasty: a tribute to the pioneers of cardiac surgery
605 John S Murala, Hugh D Wolfenden, George S Youssef, Daniel Friedman

Otototoxic ear drops with grommet and tympanic membrane perforations: a position statement
605 Robert J Black, Vince C Cousins, Peter Chapman, Zoran Becvarovski, Harvey LC Coates, Stephen J O’Leary, Christopher F Perry, Brian J Williams

Health Informatics

Lessons from the NHS National Programme for IT
607 Siaw-Teng Liaw, Douglas I R Boyle

Should clinical software be regulated?
607 Ian D Williams
608 Enrico W Coiera

OBITUARIES

573 Victor Wynn, by John R Rigg
598 John William Ruhno, by Janet Rimmer

BOOK REVIEW

601 Essentials of child and adolescent psychiatry
reviewed by David L Bennett

CORRECTION

606 Medicines and breastfeeding: information is available on safe use
(Med J Aust 2007; 186: 485)

---

April MJA BookClub Winners

Congratulations to Dr Olga Utkina, Hurstville, NSW, Dr Andrew Walker, Tugun, Qld, Dr Hope Huang, Castle Cove, NSW, and Dr Martin Byrne, Mitchell, Qld, all of whom have won the MJA BookClub April prize of a paediatric cotton cuff sphygmomanometer set. Thanks to all the doctors, students and general health care professionals who purchased books from the April MJA BookClub and went into the draw. Pictured far right is Chris Gosling, the AMPCo Publications Coordinator, drawing the winners. To see this month’s MJA BookClub’s great prize giveaway, see page 590 and the inside back cover of this issue.

Cover: Cardiac valve surgery. Courtesy Dr G Shardey, Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Cabrini Medical Centre, Vic.