

EDITORIALS

- 607 Growth hormone in children with idiopathic short stature**
The dose should be tailored to individual responsiveness to optimise growth and minimise harm, says Kerstin Albertsson-Wikland
» *Research, p 636*
- 608 Drug treatment for generalised anxiety disorder**
More head to head trials are needed to confirm apparent differences in effectiveness, says Toshi A Furukawa
» *Research, p 637*
- 609 Excess mortality in osteoarthritis**
Provides evidence for a unified approach to musculoskeletal ageing, say Cyrus Cooper and Nigel K Arden
» *Research, p 638*
- 610 Reduction of childhood mortality through millennium development goal 4**
Will not be maximised unless injury prevention is integrated into the overall plan, say Adnan A Hyder and Jeffrey Lunnen
- 612 Poor inpatient care for older people**
Good care for frail older people should be part of mainstream clinical practice, say Stuart G Parker and Simon Conroy

LETTERS

- 613 Early life radiation exposure; Utility of lifetime risks; Getting welfare to work; Industry sponsored trials**
- 614 Mephedrone; Hypertension risk in the young; Dementia as chronic disease**

NEWS

- 615 Doctors vote for health bill to be withdrawn**
MPs call for English hospitals to publish their productivity rates
- 616 Government's responsibility deal is met with scepticism**
BMA walks out of "half hearted" alcohol plan
Government delays in banning tobacco displays lead to frustration
- 617 Lansley to review health bill after Liberal Democrats oppose reforms**
- 618 Japan calls on troops to help after earthquake**
Scottish GPs declare opposition to English "market driven" reforms
Nine million people have lost health cover in US recession
- 619 European parliament criticises H1N1 response**
- 620 Oxfam warns against copying Ghana's "flawed" health plan**
Activists call for Libya to end attacks on health facilities and to let in medical supplies
- 621 India's Supreme Court says it may sanction euthanasia in the future**

SHORT CUTS

- 622 What's new in the other general journals**

FEATURES

- 624 Calling time on the world's best health system**
The French health system is highly rated but paying for it is becoming increasingly difficult, Sophie Arie reports
- 627 Finding the leader of 2011**
Helen Morant and Cath McDermott introduce the shortlisted 2011 award candidates
- 628 "We need to 'shake' the bill to make sure it works for patients"**
Last week the *BMJ* brought together a group of influential clinicians and thinkers in UK healthcare to discuss the radical changes afoot in the NHS. Rebecca Coombes summarises the key points

OBSERVATIONS

YANKEE DOODLING

- 631 The rise and likely fall of Don Berwick**
Douglas Kamerow

LOBBY WATCH

- 632 The Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team**
Jane Cassidy

ANALYSIS

- 633 The rule of ignorance: a polemic on medicine, English health service policy, and history**
A good health service needs evidence based policy making as well as evidence based medicine, says John Pickstone

RESEARCH

- 635 Research highlights: the pick of *BMJ* research papers this week**
- 636 Impact of growth hormone therapy on adult height of children with idiopathic short stature: systematic review**
Annalisa Deodati, Stefano Cianfarani
» *Editorial, p 607*
- 637 Efficacy of drug treatments for generalised anxiety disorder: systematic review and meta-analysis**
David Baldwin, Robert Woods, Richard Lawson, David Taylor
» *Editorial, p 608*
- 638 All cause and disease specific mortality in patients with knee or hip osteoarthritis: population based cohort study**
Eveline Nuesch, Paul Dieppe, Stephan Reichenbach, Susan Williams, Samuel Iff, Peter Jüni
» *Editorial, p 609*
- 639 Adequacy of reporting monitoring regimens of risk factors for cardiovascular disease in clinical guidelines: systematic review**
Ivan Moschetti, Daniel Brandt, Rafael Perera, M Clarke, Carl Heneghan



Feature, p 624



Osteoarthritis and death, pp 609, 638



NHS reforms, pp 615, 617, 659



Growth hormone in children, pp 607, 636



Antiobesity policy rejected, p 616

RESEARCH METHODS & REPORTING

640 Strengthening the reporting of genetic risk prediction studies: the GRIPS statement

A Cecile J W Janssens, John P A Ioannidis, Cornelia M van Duijn, Julian Little, Muin J Khoury, for the GRIPS Group

CLINICAL REVIEW

644 The management of abdominal aortic aneurysms

David Metcalfe, Peter J E Holt, Matt M Thompson

PRACTICE

THERAPEUTICS

650 Atypical antipsychotic drugs

Paul Mackin, Simon H L Thomas

A PATIENT'S JOURNEY

654 Adult atopic eczema

John Fuller, Andrew Wright

OBITUARIES

657 Ronald Hinchcliffe

Laid the foundations for audiology as a medical specialty

658 Rafid Subhi Adib Baban; James Cope; Audrey

Trevor Evans; George Barnet Forbes; Gavin Philip Henry; Alison McDonald

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

PERSONAL VIEW

659 Public health reforms won't mitigate the cuts
Tim Blackman

REVIEW OF THE WEEK

660 Rocking the foundations of hospital architecture
Edwin Heathcote

BETWEEN THE LINES

661 Murder, mystery, and medicine
Theodore Dalrymple

MEDICAL CLASSICS

661 The Edwin Smith papyrus
Wendy Moore

COLUMNISTS

662 We need a Sunshine Act in the UK
Des Spence

Working harder for longer
Trisha Greenhalgh

ENDGAMES

663 Quiz page for doctors in training

MINERVA

664 Bulk buying of surgical gloves, and other stories

FILLERS

643 Lost in translation



Maggie's Centres, p 660



Public health reforms, p 659

Ask our experts.

BMJ Masterclasses

masterclasses.bmj.com



BMJ

19 March 2011 Vol 342

The Editor, *BMJ*

BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JR

Email: editor@bmj.com
Tel: +44 (0)20 7387 4410
Fax: +44 (0)20 7383 6418

BMA MEMBERS' INQUIRIES

Email: membership@bma.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6642

BMJ CAREERS ADVERTISING

Email: sales@bmjcareers.com
Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6531

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Email: sales@bmjgroup.com
Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6386

REPRINTS

UK/Rest of world
Email: ngurneyrandall@bmjgroup.com
Tel: +44 (0)20 8445 5825

USA

Email: mfogler@medicalreprints.com
Tel: +1 (856) 489 4446

SUBSCRIPTIONS

BMA Members
Email: membership@bma.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6642

Non-BMA Members

Email: support@bmjgroup.com
Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6270

OTHER RESOURCES

For all other contacts:
resources.bmj.com/contact-us

For advice to authors:
resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors

To submit an article:
submit.bmj.com

BMJ Group

The *BMJ* is published by BMJ Publishing Group Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Medical Association.

The BMA grants editorial freedom to the Editor of the *BMJ*. The views expressed in the journal are those of the authors and may not necessarily comply with BMA policy. The *BMJ* follows guidelines on editorial independence produced by the World Association of Medical Editors (www.wame.org/wamestmt.htm#independence) and the code on good publication practice produced by the Committee on Publication Ethics (www.publicationethics.org.uk/guidelines/).

The *BMJ* is intended for medical professionals and is provided without warranty, express or implied. Statements in the journal are the responsibility of their authors and advertisers and not authors' institutions, the BMJ Publishing Group, or the BMA unless otherwise specified or determined by law. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the BMJ Publishing Group shall not be liable for any loss, injury, or damage resulting from the use of the *BMJ* or any information in it whether based on contract, tort, or otherwise. Readers are advised to verify any information they choose to rely on.

©BMJ Publishing Group Ltd 2011

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any other means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission, in writing, of the *BMJ*

Published weekly. US periodicals class postage paid at Rahway, NJ. Postmaster: send address changes to *BMJ*, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd Inc, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA. \$796. Weekly Printed by Polestar Limited



KENJI SHIMIZU/JA

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A hospital in Kesenuma, Miyagi prefecture, Japan. An earthquake of magnitude 9 hit Japan, and a huge tsunami has devastated the region.

On 14 March the Japanese government confirmed that 1647 people had died, 1990 were injured, and more than 10 000 were missing.

See **NEWS**, p 618

bmj.com/archive

Editor's Choice:
Responding to disasters (*BMJ* 2008;336, doi:10.1136/bmj.39581.553924.47)

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

4 cm Increase in adult height when children with idiopathic short stature are given growth hormone therapy (**Research**, p 636)

8000 Annual deaths from abdominal aortic aneurysm in the United Kingdom (**Clinical Review**, p 644)

24% Increase in prescribing of antipsychotic drugs in primary care in England in the past five years, to 1.6 million items per quarter; costs have increased by 29% to £62m (**Practice**, p 650)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“This is not evolution, it is not a tweak. It is too much at the wrong time and too quickly. The bill is an enormous mistake. I think it is not possible to tweak or tinker with this bill; it needs to be thrown out”

Andy Thornley, from the BMA's agenda committee, calling for the withdrawal of the Health and Social Care Bill (**News**, p 615)

bmj.com Visit the NHS reforms microsite at bmj.com/nhsreforms

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Health reform quackery

Perhaps doctors are always against reform. British doctors resisted the setting up of the NHS, and I am writing this from the BMA's Special Representative Meeting, which has called for the government's health bill to be withdrawn

I was picked up for two things in last week's editor's choice (*BMJ* 2011;342:d1551). First, I said that abdominal CT scans and barium enemas incur eight times the radiation dose of a chest radiograph. I should have said 400 times. The best that can be said of this is that it was in the right direction.

My predecessors always said that the quickest way to see if people are reading the journal is to get Mozart's birthday wrong. My error did the trick just as well. Thank you to all who wrote in. A correction has been made.

The second pick-up was about our article lauding Turkey's healthcare reforms (*BMJ* 2011;342:d7456). Patients' outcomes may have dramatically improved but, wrote one reader, our authors didn't report that doctors and other health professionals are up in arms and soon to take to the streets. French doctors (and patients) are likely to follow suit as their government struggles to bring down the cost of what WHO has called the best health system in the world (p 624).

Perhaps doctors are always against reform. British doctors resisted the setting up of the NHS, and I am writing this from the BMA's Special Representative Meeting, which has called for the government's health bill to be withdrawn (p 615).

While recognising the need for change, and that the bill includes some good things, speakers have stressed that the NHS is, according to the Commonwealth Fund, the most cost efficient health service in the world and that things were heading in the right direction. There is much talk of unintended consequences, rushed implementation, and lack of piloting. We have come a long way since Nye Bevan had to stuff our mouths with gold, said one speaker. Let's show our patients how far we

have come. "Medicine is a public service, not a supermarket."

Is this special interest speaking or is this really in the interests of patients and the public? John Pickstone has no obvious vested interest. He is a professor of history. Yet in his self-styled polemic (p 633) he too is excoriating in his criticism of successive healthcare reforms, this one as much as any. While dogmatism and quackery have largely been driven out of medicine, both flourish in health policy, he says. "Since the 1980s, reorganisation of the English NHS has become endemic, hectic, and essentially out of control.

"Dogmatically inclined, unmindful of evidence, and casting about for mechanisms that might deliver quickly, recent governments have proved easy prey to personal enthusiasms, management consultants, sectional interests, and the agents of private companies looking for business. Such were and are the conditions for political quackery, and thus 'heroic' policy making is now ascendant."

Vastly better methods of service development are now available, he says, and the future of a vital institution is at stake. I doubt the bill will be withdrawn—too much political capital is at stake. But as discussants at our round table agreed (p 628), it can and should be modified: to allow more gradual and voluntary change; to avoid cherry picking of low risk patients and easy-to-deliver services; and to ensure transparency and accountability for commissioning decisions.

Fiona Godlee, editor, BMJfgodlee@bmj.com

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2011;342:d1711

To receive Editor's Choice by email each week, visit bmj.com/cgi/customalert

► **Twitter** Follow the editor, Fiona Godlee, at twitter.com/fgodlee and the *BMJ*'s latest at twitter.com/bmj_latest



Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 662

Articles appearing in this print journal have already been published on bmj.com, and the version in print may have been shortened. bmj.com also contains material that is supplementary to articles: this will be indicated in the text (references are given as w1, w2, etc) and be labelled as extra on bmj.com.

Please cite all articles by year, volume, and elocator (rather than page number), eg *BMJ* 2011;342:d286.

A note on how to cite each article appears at the end of each article, and this is the form the reference will take in PubMed and other indexes.

BMJ.COM: MOST READ

Continued cannabis use and risk of incidence and persistence of psychotic symptoms
How cognitive biases affect our interpretation of political messages
Cannabis and the increased incidence and persistence of psychosis
Ethnicity and academic performance in UK trained doctors and medical students
Atypical antipsychotic drugs

VOTE FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ON BMJ.COM

► Feature: Lifetime Achievement Award: Who will succeed the follower of Lysistrata? (*BMJ* 2011;342:d1062)

► Podcast: Lifetime Achievement Award 2011

100% recycled The *BMJ* is printed on 100% recycled paper (except the cover)