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There's a lot on, a sudden rush of activity, in all sorts of directions, as I write this Editorial on 15 October at the BACP Annual Conference. This 'buzz' is reflected in the pages of this issue of HCPJ as we go to press.

Here at the BACP Conference, I know that new research by the Future Foundation will be revealed. It is likely to have a positive and affirmative effect on our work as counsellors and psychotherapists in the NHS. As I scan the final proofs of HCPJ, though, I draw your attention to the key article by John McLeod, 'Changing the landscape through research'. John lays out the evidence for the effectiveness of counselling in primary care, highlights the many questions that remain unanswered and encourages all counsellors in the NHS to address these. It's a myth that only huge multi-centre studies count, and John argues that many of these research questions can be pursued by small teams of practitioner-researchers. Nigel Mathers, Chair of Research for RCGP, follows on with an article which promotes real benefits from multiprofessional team-based research and highlights a whole range of places and people NHS counsellors can reach for advice, mentoring or even financial support for their research projects. The third article in the 'changing the landscape' feature provides a comprehensive list of possible sources for research funding, and how you can optimise funding applications, and has been written by Stephen Goss.

Then Gillian Proctor ventures boldly into the challenging questions around when therapy doesn't work, or makes the client worse, and invites us all to take a closer look. Against the background of a pharmaceutical industry having a very hard time on SSRIs, Terry Lynch, an Irish GP turned therapist, asks us to step over the horizon beyond the medical model. Terry should know; he has worked on both sides of that horizon.

One of the consequences of the SSRI debacle has been a delay in the publication of the NICE Guidelines on Anxiety, Depression and Agoraphobia with and without Panic Disorder. As a member of one of the NICE Guideline groups it has been extremely difficult for me to uphold the case for counselling in the absence of acceptable research in these areas. So, I make a plea for more of our readers to get involved in research, for the sake of the profession and the clients we serve.

There is much more in this issue to inform and inspire you: insight into how PCTs do their commissioning, extracts from two brand new BACP information sheets, an appeal by Kath Sharman to treat obesity using a whole-person approach, an invitation by Margot Schofield for you to build bridges with Australian healthcare counsellors, and encouragement from Karen Stainsby for you to get involved in training NHS staff in emotional literacy and team-working skills.

With only 2 weeks to go till the FHCP conference in York I am pleased to report that it is a sell-out! 'Collaboration and Innovation – the way forward' has hit the spot and there are no more places left. For those of you who are coming, the FHCP Executive, Louise Robinson – our NHS Campaign Manager, and myself will be pleased to meet up with you in York.

Finally, BACP is in the midst of reviewing its publication plans, and changes to HCPJ are in the wind. The position of Maggie Pettifer, our publishing editor, has been pivotal in establishing the journal and developing it to where it is today. It must not be left unsaid that her expertise, enthusiasm and skill are appreciated, and without them HCPJ would not have attracted the recent higher scores for perceived value than any other aspect of being a member of FHCP, nor would its messages about the value of counselling spread as far and wide as they have to other NHS stakeholder groups.

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