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## EDITORIAL

### The power of collaboration

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Since Covid-19 appeared almost two years ago, strategic leaders and academics have offered their wisdom to leaders ‘in the field’ in terms of what worked for them during previous crises. Learning from others’ experiences may be helpful, but the unprecedented nature of the context in which we are living and working has called for innovation, creativity and collaboration, to ‘work things out’. A theme of positivity runs through literature, encouraging leaders to foster hope through being available, listening, responding and showing compassion at a time when there seemed little reason to be positive. Over the difficult period of the pandemic, though, there have been so many stories of close collaborations, person-centred ways of being, helpfulness and kindness, and collaboration is a central theme in this issue of the *IPDJ*.

Over recent months, we have reviewed and refined the aim and scope of the journal, alongside our key stakeholders at the Foundation of Nursing Studies, the International Practice Development Collaborative ([IPDC](#)) and the Person-centred Practice International Community of Practice ([PCP-ICoP](#)). The new aim and scope outline our ongoing commitment to:

*‘Facilitate the growth of an international community that is open to, and inclusive of, different perspectives and approaches, and encourages creative exploration, critical reflection and dialogue to enable the publication of material that challenges assumptions and evokes new ideas’*

This review and refinement exercise reminded us of the growing communities of practice that exist in the world of person-centredness and practice development, and their commitment and contribution to the evolution of our theoretical understandings and their practical applications.

You may notice that this issue has a slightly different feel, and this is due to opportunities that have emerged from collaborative working. It includes a ‘feature article’, gifted to us by Angie Titchen, a person who has long been part of these communities and at the forefront of theoretical development in person-centredness, transformational practice development and critical creativity. Angie shares four stories, inviting us to think about how we might work together to create healthful cultures, using examples from outside health and social care settings. The theoretical, methodological and human flourishing frameworks of critical creativity are woven through these stories, offering moments of reflection to think about not only our ‘doing’ but also our ‘being’.

The theme of collaboration continues as we celebrate the publication of two books in 2021. Both are closely aligned to the aim and scope of the *IPDJ*, and are the result of international writing

partnerships. *Fundamentals of Person-centred Healthcare Practice* (McCormack et al., 2021) invites the reader to consider health and social care practice through the lens of the Person-centred Practice Framework, while a new edition of *International Practice Development in Health and Social Care* (Manley et al., 2021) continues to enhance our knowledge and understanding about the ways in which practice development can facilitate person-centred, safe and effective delivery of care. Thank you to our book reviewers for sharing their insight into what these books have to offer readers. A third book review celebrates the opportunities that can emerge from publishing in the this journal. We were delighted to learn that *Towards the Compassionate University: From Golden Thread to Global Impact*, edited by Kathryn Waddington (2021) arose from an article originally published by Kathryn in the *IPDJ* (Waddington, 2016). We offer this review to illustrate how thinking in this area aligns with person-centred work and the opportunities for collaboration in this respect.

The articles in this issue demonstrate the power of collaboration to enable transformation through learning with and from each other. The original papers feature collaborative research methodologies. Nicola Drayton and her colleagues used practice development and appreciative inquiry to evaluate goal setting in the field of rehabilitation and found a means of enhancing collaboration between multidisciplinary teams and clients. Co-researchers involved in studies led by Maria Mackay and Joanna Holland contributed to the development of tools that helped learners and practitioners find their voice to participate in the learning process and practice change. The theme is continued by Hilde Hovda Midje and colleagues in their exploration of the potential of employee engagement to improve teamwork. In the critical reflections, Claire Hamshire and Kirsten Jack critique the use of an educational tool that facilitates the development of learning partnerships in clinical settings, while Bibi Hølge-Hazelton and her team consider the use of action learning and action-oriented research to support ward managers through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, there is hope and much to be positive about. Leaders, practitioners and scholars alike are generating and sharing their wisdom through partnerships and collaborative practices that continue to develop the knowledge base around person-centredness and participatory methodologies. We hope you find this edition of the *IPDJ* helpful, positive and that it stimulates some creative and innovative thinking. We would like to thank all the authors and reviewers for their contributions, and the IPDC and PcP-ICoP for their ongoing commitment, vision and support.

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