

# From the Editor, Editorial Board and Editorial Staff: towards a new era for *Intervention*

## Looking back

This issue, 15.3, is in so many ways a very special issue. Not only is it the last issue of our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, but also celebrates and notes 15 years of providing a platform for exploring and introducing novel approaches and good practise in the field of mental health and psychosocial support in areas of armed conflict and disaster. Fifteen years in which we have tried to initiate further debate on unresolved or controversial issues in the field, and where we have kept a place for those little heard ‘*voices from the field*’. These voices are not only often gripping, personal stories of people living and/or working in (post) conflict, war zones or disaster areas, but are also considered a central core of the journal and are unique within the world of journals.

To date, we have published 45 issues, 218 peer reviewed articles, 89 field reports (also peer reviewed in the last 3 years), 28 personal reflections, 55 book reviews and several other contributions such as *Invited comments*, *Letters to the editor*, *Special Introductions* and manuals. Each time we publish, these stories remind us why a journal like *Intervention* is so essential, and so unique. The journal has become such a unique voice in the burgeoning field of ‘*Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Humanitarian Settings*’ through linking the worlds of humanitarian practitioners, academic researchers and humanitarian policy makers.

However, what makes this issue even more special is that it marks the end of an era and is the last printed ‘*hard copy*’ issue of *Intervention*. When the journal began, all those years ago, in many countries where we felt it was so essential to disseminate the sort of

information contained within our covers, the availability of the internet was not as pervasive as it is now nor reliable enough to sustain connections to download articles. In these changing times, hard copies have become less important, more expensive to maintain and in recognition, many publications are switching to an online presence only.

Our discussions about the future direction of *Intervention* and how to serve our readers best was somewhat accelerated by our publisher, Wolters Kluwer Health, who have decided not to support the continued publication of a hard copy *Intervention* after 11 wonderful years of working together. It has always been a great pleasure to work with such a dedicated team and such skilful, but above all, friendly people with inexhaustible strength, flexibility and support. We are very grateful to all those that we have worked with there to produce *Intervention*, and will miss them dearly. We find ourselves, sadly, also in the position of having to say goodbye to the translators who translated our abstracts into several languages to spread the word further with great dedication, for many years. We are also grateful to each and every one of them for their important contributions.

## Entering a new era

From 2018 onwards, *Intervention* will not only be a new, up-to-date online journal, but more importantly, it will also become an open access journal. For people who had no subscription, they could access the articles for free via more than 1800 university libraries and organisations via the special website ‘*Hinari*’ of the World Health Organisation. This too will become a thing of the past.

However, have no fear, should you wish an article from our 15 year archive, in 2018 all volumes published up to and including 2017 will be freely accessible on our website [www.interventionjournal.com](http://www.interventionjournal.com).

As the journal enters this new era in 2018, *Intervention* will be published by Medknow, a subsidiary of Wolters Kluwer, thus allowing us to continue this great partnership. Medknow provides publishing services for peer reviewed, online journals to over 350 medical society journals in over 40 specialties, with a global focus. Their specific mission is to help medical societies disseminate research, thereby supporting the transformation of research into knowledge, a mission in line with the aim of *Intervention*. Medknow also operates the Open Access (OA) model of publishing services. For further information see: <http://www.medknow.com/>.

We have great faith that these changes will bring *Intervention* to a new age, publishing as fast as possible and with the all important open access. The core of the journal and it's aims will remain the same with peer reviewed articles, field reports and our unique personal reflections. We are looking forward to step into this new era and will do our best to continue to publish interesting, relevant papers and contribute to new developments, as well as evidence and practice based interventions. Therefore, we invite authors to continue contributing to *Intervention*. The website for submitting articles continues until the end of the year, and we will announce on our website any renewed instructions for submissions. Should any queries or problems arise during this transition period, please send us an email: [intervention@wartrauma.nl](mailto:intervention@wartrauma.nl)

The final special element of this issue is the fact that it is a *Special Issue*. In 2014, *Intervention* published a special section on *Peacebuilding and Psychosocial Work*. Also, in that year, the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) in South Africa and the War Trauma Foundation (WTF) collaborated to develop a series of outputs aimed at researching the interconnectedness between mental health and psychosocial support and peacebuilding. A series of meetings and conferences, a literature review, a global mapping study and a call for proposals on 'Linking mental health and psychosocial support and peacebuilding' have resulted in this, final hard copy *Special Issue*, funded by the donor of that project. It is another example of mainstreaming mental health and psychosocial support into other sectors and an important one for both disciplines to better meet their goals and serve affected populations better. For more detailed information on the contributions in this issue, please see the *Introduction* article of our guest editor, Friederike Bubenzer of IJR, and myself, the Editor in Chief of *Intervention*. We hope that this issue will not only be read by people working in the mental health and psychosocial support field, but also in the peacebuilding field. Further, that the contributions will be food for thought and help to develop a theoretical and practice framework and strategic long term policy on which an evidence base for future action can be built.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and Editorial Staff,  
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