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Highlights of this edition

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I am pleased to say that this will be the last of the 'thin' editions and from 2015 we should actually have a slightly increased page budget to allow us to reduce the time for paper publication of certain article types that are currently backlogging. Work to promote the journal continues and in order to disseminate our message that we are not just 'Army' nor 'British' the journals title will now be followed by the strapline "An International Military Medical Journal".

At the time of publication Military Medicine have still not received the current year's Impact Factor assignment—last years was 0.77, which means that we can rightly regard ourselves as the premier military medical journal in the world.

FACE TRANSPLANT

The editorial in this edition presents a highly topical and fascinating insight into the advances in composite vascularised allografts and highlights their potential utility for some of the more severely injured servicemen. The challenges, both technical and psychological, are addressed and I look forward to hearing of the Facial Transplantation proposed for Glasgow.

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TRANEXAMIC ACID

Wright's thought provoking Personal View makes the case for forward use of tranexamic acid. His analysis of the safety profile and administration logistics make a cogent case particularly as we return to contingency and the vagaries of future conflict are unknown. I hope this article will stimulate debate and welcome letters on the subject or alternative views.

THE ROG

The Rear Operations Group—or Rear Party as it used to be known—has always presented a range of psychological problems and this article summarises those issues succinctly and then presents a novel solution. The use of a structured archeological dig as a means of social support and integration is intriguing and the obvious successes are commendable. It remains to be seen how widely this sort of approach is adopted.

LEISHMANIASIS AGAIN

This journal has a long and illustrious relationship with Leishmaniasis and so with the uncertainties of contingency facing us, it is timely to remind ourselves and our readership, that cutaneous Leishmaniasis remains a threat to our soldiers. It is also appropriate to remind us that it is often misdiagnosed and a careful travel history and a suitable level of suspicion are vital to

save soldiers from unnecessary and potentially disfiguring surgery.

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS OF SOLDIERING

Two reports highlight the physical demands of soldiering. Nemoto *et al*'s long term study of Japanese Self Defense force soldiers showed a significantly increased incidence of spondylolisthesis whilst the case from McCulloch and colleagues reports a significant neural injury from a heavy weighted run.

... AND FINALLY

In this centenary year of the start of the First World War, it is apt to read this story of an RAMC doctor who died in service. Admirably researched by a school alumnus it charts Captain Metcalfe's short but illustrious career including his time as a surgical dresser to the renowned Leeds surgeon Berkeley (Lord) Moynihan. As the author points out, sadly the story he tells is far from uncommon.

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