This edition begins with an article from Thailand discussing the management of external ventricular drains, related infections, sampling advice and improved protocols for the Thai population.

Following is a paper outlining the importance of the nurses’ supportive role and thorough assessment skills in order to manage the patient with leptomeningeal carcinomatosis.

The next manuscript discusses the significant benefits in relation to health economics and nursing care following the establishment of an out-patient lumbar microdiscectomy program in Victoria.

Congratulations to the new ANNA Executive team, voted in during the Sydney ANNA Conference. Handover will occur in the coming months with official duties beginning in earnest next year. On behalf of the AJoN readers, I would like to thank the previous Executive and wish them well in their new endeavours.

Having been the Editor of the AJoN for the last seven years, it is now time to hand it over to the new editor—Linda Nichols, from Tasmania. Congratulations!

Thank you all for your support and submissions over the years. The neuroscience nursing profession relies on manuscript submissions for evidence-based outcomes and best practice scenarios. Please encourage your colleagues to submit their work to be published in the AJoN. There are many excellent studies being done and they would be beneficial to publish—for the AJoN, its readers and your CV!

Cheers,
Vicki
3. The annual Parkinson’s Disease Education Day for Nurses held in NSW on 23rd August was the first education day held under the ANNA MDC banner. This event is affectionately known as “Pump Friends” and is a Tier 1 event. PD Nurses in NSW hold this event for nurses who care for people on apomorphine pumps. These nurses are from acute wards, the community and aged care facilities. Previously this event has been solely sponsored by Hospira, now Pfizer. This year we extended the sponsorship to include Stada and Abbvie, as we also expanded the program to include Duodopa pumps by breaking in to 2 afternoon workshop groups. PAMS supported an online registration process, which enabled us to charge for the event. $36 covered the cost of lunch, morning and afternoon tea, and the PAMS registration handling fee per person. The Sponsorship covered the facility hire and lunch for the speakers. As this program has been held for 6 years, we know it is well attended and gains very positive feedback. The speakers donate their time, some traveling over 4 hours to contribute. It was encouraging to find that the new $36 registration fee did not deter numbers from attending. The lesson for next year is we will ask for more sponsorship from the pharma companies so we can also cover the cost of printing education.

It is encouraging to reflect on what we have achieved in our first year. We look forward to what the next year brings.

Sue Williams
Chair MDC ANNA