

EDITORS' NOTE

We are delighted to welcome you to this special issue of the *The Journal of Clinical Speech & Language Studies (JCSLS)*, which combines volumes 12 and 13 (2002/2003).

The papers in this volume have been drawn from two significant conferences held at Trinity College Dublin in the past academic year. The first five papers were invited from speakers who presented at the *de Montfort International Symposium: What's new? What does it mean for you?* held in April, 2003. The remaining four papers were given at the *European Socrates Intensive Summer Programme* held at Trinity in August of 2002.

A glance at the table of contents suggests that the collection of papers presented here form an eclectic mix. However, a number of common themes emerge from the topics covered.

Innovative, client-focused approaches to therapy exploration and management form a common thread drawing together papers by Kaye Cedarman, Trudy Stewart and myself. People with dysarthria are the focus of papers by Margaret Walshe and Anja Lowit and her colleagues, while the recent call for evidence-based-practice in speech and language therapy is particularly demonstrated and highlighted by Trina Corry and Hanneke Kalf in their respective papers. Finally, with a focus on speech and language therapy service delivery, Anne Geraghty explores the views of speech and language therapists in relation to the introduction of assistants while Jeff Kallen considers the role of the speech and language therapist within a human rights paradigm, through his survey of relevant national, international and European legislation. We are most grateful to all of the above authors who took the time to contribute their papers to this special issue.

Moving onto matters editorial, it is with some regret that Martine Smith is standing down as co-editor of the *JCSLS*. Martine has been involved in the editorial process for the past ten years. Her academic expertise, diligence and keen determination to publish each volume to the highest standard will be greatly missed. *Go raibh maith agat, Martine.*

Irene Walsh
Co-editor