I don’t know how I have managed to end up here...

Have you ever stopped and wondered how you ended up somewhere. If you have then you will know what I mean when I say that I don’t know how I have managed to end up here writing my first editorial message for the Journal of Perioperative Practice. I never imagined that one day I would get the opportunity to take on the Editor’s role, but here I am.

As a student nurse I hadn’t really enjoyed my theatre placement. In fact I was quite happy at the prospect of never having to cross the red line again or put on another strange looking paper hat that played havoc with my hairstyle. When I qualified I was really pleased to get a post on a surgical ward. However, I was only there two months when a request came to the ward for a volunteer to fill in for a few weeks in theatre as they were short staffed. Being the most junior staff nurse on the ward Sister volunteered me. After about a year it became apparent that the few weeks temporary cover was now a permanent placement. However, by then I was a fully fledged theatre nurse with my own clogs.

I joined NATN now AFPP in the 1990s and have been reading this journal every month for over twenty years now. I have valued the learning that I have gained from the sharing of best practice and evidence based literature. I have great respect for the Association and the perioperative leadership that has emerged from it.

What made me apply for the position is the confidence I have gained from the journal itself through the editorial team. As a novice writer in 2005 the editorial team helped support me with the publication of my first article. This gave me the confidence to go back to part time education and continue writing. If you have never published before why not give it a go. It doesn’t have to be an article, start with a letter or a short commentary. Sometimes opportunities in life come along that are exciting and challenging and for me this is one of them. As Editor I will ensure that the journal continues to thrive and produce literature that has a positive impact on the delivery and safety of care in the perioperative environment.

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