Effecting change for better health outcomes
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FROM THE EDITOR


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SUMMARY
In its third issue of 2017, The Journal of Health Design (JHD) focuses on how effecting change can lead to improved outcomes for patients and people’s health.

Key Words
Tracheal intubation; bougies; smoking cessation; teachable moment; behavioural change; exercise

Welcome to our latest issue of The Journal of Health Design for 2017. The theme of this issue, our third of 2017, is how effecting change can lead to improved outcomes for patients and people’s health. Change can come in the form of the design of new tools used in procedures; taking advantage of a teachable moment; and using technology to measure performance as a means of altering people’s eating and exercise habits.

In “Tracheal intubation: Improving first pass success with smart material solutions”, the authors outline how improving existing intubation technologies—specifically, bougies—presents an opportunity to increase the efficiency and safety of intubation procedures within anaesthesia. Overcoming the challenges presented by how bougies are designed—by integrating smart systems using smart materials—has massive potential to reduce risks of airway perforation and tissue damage during intubation.

“Are we missing an opportunity to improve smoking cessation rates for pregnant women?” explores how in Australia the incidence of smoking during pregnancy remains high despite targeted anti-smoking public health campaigns. Pregnancy has been identified as a strong teachable moment and may be a value opportunity for health promotion. But what means, messages, or tools fire best trigger that change in behaviour and get women to stop smoking while pregnant?

“Modern Medical Technology Enhanced Activity Program” is a research insight paper about how using technology to measure physical activity can improve patients’ overall health. The researchers posited that improved biological markers would confirm the value of using technology to effect behavioural change. Though the study size was small, the researchers saw improvements in health as forecasted. They also observed some unexpected results; namely, that setting up a social network for the participants provided a support group and spurred competition.

We have issued two calls for special editions, with three more forthcoming. The themes are:

- Design in health care
- Patient control
- Patient feedback informing service design
- Patients as co-designers
- Staff experiences information service design.

Please visit The JHD website for details. If you would like to contribute a paper to one or more of the aforementioned special editions, or have your own idea for a special edition, please email us. Also, spread the word—let colleagues and people in your network know about these exciting opportunities to publish their research.

Be sure to listen to our growing list of interviews in our podcast series. And don’t forget to follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

As always, we appreciate your continued interest in The JHD.