

## **Editorial**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest issue of the IACAT Journal.

It is a pleasure to invite you to read the exciting material in this special issue on music therapy. Our first article is a collaborative one by Susan Baines, Jane Edwards, Triona McCaffrey and Jason Noone entitled, “Including service user perspectives in research: Reflections of the *Music & Health Research Group* at the University of Limerick”. Their commitment to the voice of users in health and disability services demonstrates the importance of inclusivity in policy-making and raises valuable considerations for future research in the field. Next, we have an article by Bill Ahessy entitled “The lost chord: Music therapy with a woman with Alzheimer’s disease”. This case study demonstrates how through a person centred approach, such as song writing, music therapy, along with the other arts therapies, can be used successfully with people with dementia. Finally, Lisa McAuliffe presents “A reflection and literature review exploring music and music therapy with persons who are d/Deaf or hard-of-hearing”, creatively explored through an arts based approach. Central to this article is awareness of Deaf culture and values, the perceptual limitations of the Cochlear Implant and the importance of music in this context, and implications for music therapists.

While this edition has music therapy at its centre, we are also keen to highlight current issues in the arts therapies more widely. Therefore, we include a clinical reflection on the arts in health movement by Joan Philips, whose perspective from the United States begins a conversation on the arts in health in Ireland as creative arts therapies develop worldwide. We also include an interview by Lucia Šimončíčová with American art therapist

Eileen P. McGann, who specialises in working with adolescents and families who have experienced trauma.

The studies in this issue have the client at their centre and emphasise dialogue and inclusivity. We on the editorial team see this as an opportunity to open a discussion between the arts therapies and the arts in health movement in Ireland. Maybe the reflection by Joan Philips could open a door to a space where it is possible to view different ways of working through and with the arts in health settings as complementary, instead of potentially competing about precious resources and work opportunities. Arts therapists and arts in health practitioners offer distinctly different approaches and both these approaches are needed. There is also strength in numbers when we – arts therapists and arts in health practitioners – work together, alongside each other and respecting what each approach uniquely has to offer. Centrally, there is more on offer for the clients who after all, are the most important people to consider! This also means that the capacity of the arts to inspire, give hope, expand our consciousness and bring us together in all our humanity is highlighted and promoted in the health services, where it certainly seems like the arts are particularly urgently needed in these difficult and challenging times.

We are pleased to include two book reviews in music therapy in this special edition. Julie Sutton reviews *Music therapy and parent-infant bonding*, edited by Jane Edwards, and Alison Sweeney reviews *Musical encounters with dying: Stories and lessons*, edited by Islene Runningdeer. In addition, Monika Rejtner reviews *Soul and spirit in dance movement psychotherapy: A transpersonal approach*, by Jill Hayes, Una Egan reviews *Dramatherapy and destructiveness: Creating the evidence base, playing with Thanatos*, edited by Ditty Dokter, Pete Holloway and Henri Seebom, and David McCormack, reviews a classic text recently reissued, Marian Milner's *A life of one's own*.

This edition is ready just in time for the IACAT AGM 2014. Some of you will remember that in the Editorial for the first edition of the re-launched IACAT Journal we mentioned giving academic writing workshops. Well, the first workshop of this kind will take place at the AGM in Dublin on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2014. The purpose of this event will be to ‘kick-start’ the writing process for those who are struggling to start, to progress, or to finish a piece of written work. With this taster workshop, we hope to encourage everyone who would like to submit work to IACAT Journal to take up pen and paper, or get on their computer, and start writing!

*Eva:* I also want to take the opportunity to welcome Margaret O’Neill, who has been our Editorial Assistant so far, into her new role as Co-Editor. Margaret’s work on facilitating the re-launch of the Journal in this current format has been invaluable I look forward to continuing to work with her on the IACAT Journal.

We hope that you enjoy reading this issue.

Eva Lindroos, Editor-in-Chief

Margaret O’Neill, Co-Editor

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