This editorial is inspired by my WCET UK colleagues. During a skype call to discuss the WCET Journal and the launch of the new column by Jo Sica “Around the WCET world – WCET UK”, which premiers in this issue, it became clear that I needed to write an editorial about our publication process.

A journal needs manuscripts to publish. To those of you who have submitted your manuscripts to us, we say thank you. The volunteers who are members of the Editorial Board work hard to peer review the manuscripts and provide feedback. The content Assistant Editors, Karen Zulkowski for wounds and Judith Weller for ostomy, work with me to make a decision about whether or not to publish the manuscript. As volunteers, we are doing our best to continue the quality of the journal that we inherited from the previous editorial team. Because our journal is committed to publishing a wide range of articles from research, case discussions, to practice hints and tips, as well as mentoring new authors and those for whom English is not their first language, the review process takes time. I understand that some members would like more ostomy articles. In order to do that, I am asking those of you that have interesting ostomy cases with photos, please write them up and send them to us for consideration. Judy Weller is retiring from being Assistant Editor for ostomy. The two new Co-editors, Sarah Lebovits (Sarah. Lebovits@nyumc.org) and Kevin Woo (kevinyywoo@gmail.com) are eager to receive your manuscripts and get working on this. By the way, once manuscripts are accepted and all the content is put into a proof by Sandra Carbone from Cambridge Media and her production staff, on average, it takes six versions of the proof to get everything right. Sometimes, adjustments have to be made for space requirements; this is always challenging!

You may find it interesting to know that many people do not know how to write correctly and do not share their knowledge and clinical experiences with their colleagues. I want to let you know that the editorial team at the WCET Journal will work with you, so if you have never written before, do not be afraid to write. In fact you are in good company. From an email from one of the editors from the INANE list serve, I learned that Google released its annual Zeitgeist list of what internet users have been searching for on Google during the past year. As your WCET Editor, I was happy to learn that people everywhere really want help on how to write. The #1 and #3 topics on the list of Top Ten “How to” searches for 2011 had to do with writing. Claiming the #1 spot for searches was “how to revise”. Number three was “how to reference”. For your information, WCET provides examples of how to reference for our journal style in our guidelines for authors, which you can find on our website. I’m sure you are wondering what was #2; I know I did. It was how to snog. I did not know what that is so I had to Google it, which you can do also.

This issue of the journal is our Congress issue. It contains important manuscripts for your consideration including the work in English and Italian in this rendition of stories from the bedside by Mario Antonini and Gaetano Militello, faecal incontinence products by Jan Powers and Donna Bliss, and a short report on selecting appropriate ostomy skin barriers by Paris Purnell in multiple languages (English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish) which highlights key messages from this journal issue’s supplement entitled “Selecting the appropriate Skin Barrier in Ostomy Care”. Dr Zulkowski provides the last of the abstracts from the WCET/WOCN Phoenix congress, while Dr Levin and colleagues has given us yet another interesting aspect on research for WCET nursing practice in “Searching the sea of evidence, Part IV”.

Our next congress is almost here! In preparation for our meeting at the Adelaide Congress, please read the proposed Constitution changes and let your country ID know your comments so they can vote of your behalf. Please also read about our newest Life Member, Judy Chamberlain, who will be celebrated at the Congress. The last installment of “Countdown to Congress” is provided in this issue as well. Fiona Bolton, Elizabeth English, and the rest of the very hard-working Congress planning team are looking forward to seeing you in Adelaide. The scientific programme is outstanding, so make your plans now to attend. And if you need help with 'writing right', come to my session on “Writing for publication”. I will be happy to see you there!