As Executive Editor, I’m always thinking about tomorrows. What manuscripts will the journal receive, when will the editorial board members return submitted manuscripts after their peer review, and will authors understand the comments and suggestions for revision of their manuscript or, in the unlikely event that their manuscript is deemed not the “right fit” for our journal, understand this? Coupled with a wonderful group of Assistant Editors, and the professional staff at Cambridge Publishing, these seeds of scholarly work bloom into what you receive as the WCET Journal. Soon you will receive an invitation from WCET VP Susan Stelton to complete the WCET membership survey. We look forward to hearing from you, our members, so your Executive Board can better plan for WCET’s tomorrow. Susan is working with her team and, as in the past, will have the survey available in languages other than English. I especially will watch with great interest your feedback about the WCET Journal.

When I attend conferences and talk with colleagues, I hear things such as “Why isn’t there an article on ______?” Well, one of the reasons is, somebody didn’t write it. At the WCET Journal we try hard to assist authors, especially first-time authors, so their clinical insights can be shared with other ET colleagues around the world. Those whose practice is just ostomy, want ostomy articles not wound or incontinence articles, those whose practice is wound, don’t want ostomy or incontinence articles, but just wounds, and finally those whose practice is incontinence want incontinence, not wound or ostomy. Since WCET embraces the three components of our specialty, ostomy, wounds and incontinence, my role as your volunteer Executive Editor is to help grow the literature base for all three of these areas. Not always an easy thing to do.

On behalf of the WCET Executive Board, I recently attended the first Conference of the Association of Stoma Care Nurses UK (ASCN UK) in Newport, Wales. My sincere gratitude for the warm and genuine welcome I received. This was a superior, well-attended congress. The scientific presentations were of the highest quality. It was so impressive for me to see the seeds that ASCN UK (formerly WCET UK) talked about last year in Edinburgh, which sprouted into action and resulted in such an impressive conference — and in one year! I especially liked how on the congress booklet they used their association’s initials to provide the theme of Achieving Success Collaborative Networking. Jo Sica has provided a more detailed overview of the congress in this issue’s “Around the WCET World”. I am delighted that one of those outstanding presentations is in this issue’s “Stories from the bedside”. Debbie Moody and Anna Wallace relate their challenges of nursing an obese patient with a stoma. I think you will find it provides insights into a patient population that we need to know more about.

In an earlier column, Jo Sica planted the seed about “pancaking”. So in this issue, we have a research article by Sigrun Klok-Vonkeman, Gooske Douw and Dr Arijeke Janse from the Netherlands that gives new evidence about the prevalence and consequences of “pancaking” around the stoma. Please join WCET in thanking the nurses from the Netherlands who made a significant donation to help sustain the educational mission of the WCET and NNFG.

Also, building on his previously published article in the WCET Journal at the beginning of the year, Dr Ohura provides us with Part II of this work on the influence of dynamic external force on pressure ulcers. As always, Dr Zulkowski has provided abstracts from the 2012 WCET Congress in Adelaide, Australia, with this edition emphasising Quality of Life. Due to a printing error in the Chinese translation, we are reprinting the WCET Travel cards.

By the time you receive this journal, we will be half a year away from the 20th WCET Biennial Congress, to be held on 15–19 June 2014 in Gothenburg, Sweden. While the call for abstracts closed on 18 November, there is still time to make your travel plans and register for the conference. More details can be found in the “Journey to Congress” pages. You will want to be there in Sweden when WCET premieres its International Ostomy Guideline. Karen Zulkowski’s report will update you on how this project is coming along.

In preparation for the WCET business meeting where IDs will be casting votes, please read the nominations of the candidates for election in 2014. These individuals have responded to the previous calls for candidates in earlier journal issues. They hold the promise of tomorrow’s leadership for WCET for the next two years, so please dialogue with your country ID and all WCET matters that will be discussed, including the proposed constitution changes which will be communicated to you in the future.

Take time to read the product news and learn the latest from the information provided by our Journal Sustaining Partners. As always in the December issue, we include the index for the year 2013. For now, WCET wishes all of you wonderful holidays and happy new year as we greet our tomorrows awaiting us in 2014.