Editorial May 2018

Welcome to the first issue for 2018 and our 13th year of publication. We would like to thank all our authors for submitting such valuable papers for us all to enjoy and learn from. Also a huge thank you to the behind scenes work of the reviewers whose constructive and timely feedback on submissions enables PESTLHE to continue scholarly accounts of educational practices in higher education.

In this issue we have four papers covering a broad range of topics. The first paper by Pringle and Rea examine how Digital Technologies Enhance Anatomical Education. They have undertaken a large scale review of the literature on the use and effectiveness or otherwise, of digital technologies in anatomy, medicine, surgery, dentistry and the allied health professions and they report their findings of analysing studies on the basis of those studies with/without empirical evidence. In our second paper Duncan et al. examined students’ experience of a gamified, mystery-driven problem based learning (PBL) approach in a postgraduate strength and conditioning module. In their study they indicate that a PBL approach, using some aspects of gamification, via role play and mystery, via receiving ‘mystery’ packages can add value to the postgraduate experience. Roberts and McLachlan in our third paper the authors evaluate the use of practitioner inquiry within an HEA-accredited scheme (OpenPAD) to support the professional development of part-time Associate Lecturers at a large distance-learning institution. Finally, in our fourth paper - Predicting the Aspirations of Vocational Learners: A Pilot Study – Stevens explores the interface between the background characteristics and aspirations of student’s studying vocational programmes (BTEC National Diploma) at further education (FE) colleges in the south west of England and the support and infrastructure that would enable them to go onto engage with HE.

Onwards and upwards in 2018 and look forward to receiving your submissions for future issues - next issue summer 2018.

Jane Pritchard (Editor in Chief PESTLHE)
Sam Nolan