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Association with depression and burn-out remains uncertain, say James McLay and Sarah Ross
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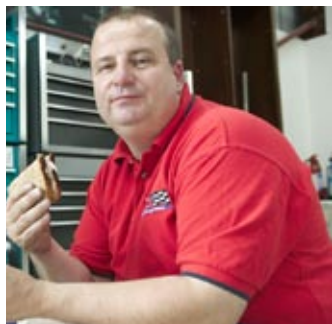
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DR P MARAZZI/SPL

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The wide variation in recurrence rates suggests that treatment regimens recommended under DOTS may not be universally successful

Helen S Cox, Martha Morrow, Peter W Deutschmann

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488 Rates of medication errors among depressed and burnt out residents: prospective cohort study

Depressed residents were more than six times as likely to make errors in medication as their non-depressed colleagues

Amy M Fahrenkopf, Theodore C Sectish, Laura K Barger, Paul J Sharek, Daniel Lewin, Vincent W Chiang, Sarah Edwards, Bernhard L Wiedermann, Christopher P Landrigan

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491 Effectiveness of the diabetes education and self management for ongoing and newly diagnosed (DESMOND) programme for people with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes: cluster randomised controlled trial

Structured learning and goal setting in a group for six hours significantly increased rates of weight loss and smoking cessation up to a year later but made no difference to haemoglobin A_{1c} levels

M J Davies, S Heller, T C Skinner, M J Campbell, M E Carey, S Cradock, H M Dallosso, H Daly, Y Doherty, S Eaton, C Fox, L Oliver, K Rantell, G Rayman, K Khunti, on behalf of the Diabetes Education and Self Management for Ongoing and Newly Diagnosed Collaborative

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496 Diagnosis and management of alcohol use disorders

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502 Guidelines: Care and management of osteoarthritis in adults: summary of NICE guidance

This is one of a series of *BMJ* summaries of new guidelines, which are based on the best available evidence; they will highlight important recommendations for clinical practice, especially where uncertainty or controversy exists

Philip G Conaghan, John Dickson, Robert L Grant, on behalf of the Guideline Development Group

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Nicola Dalbeth, Bruce Arroll

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Ribavirin treatment for hepatitis C may artificially lower HbA_{1c} and give misleading information about glycaemic control

Michael Robertson

506 10-minute consultation: Haemochromatosis

This is part of a series of occasional articles on common problems in primary care

William E Cayley Jr

RESEARCH PUBLISHED AHEAD OF PRINT

Effects of statins in patients with chronic kidney disease: meta-analysis and meta-regression of randomised controlled trials

BMJ, doi:10.1136/bmj.39472.580984.AE

Giovanni F M Strippoli, Sankar D Navaneethan, David W Johnson, Vlado Perkovic, Fabio Pellegrini, Antonio Nicolucci, Jonathan C Craig

HOLD THE BACK PAGE!

As you may have noticed, we recently combined the *BMJ* and *BMJ Careers* within one set of covers. This has presented some practical problems, one being the splitting up of the obituary pages. We intend to move the obituaries further forward so the short and long obituaries are together again and, by doing this, we will gain a page for editorial content at the back of *Minerva*.

We have now finalised the format for this page, which we have called Endgames. There will be a regular statistics question, case report, clinical and picture quiz, along with a question of the week from OnExamination to test your knowledge. If you would like to submit questions for this page please refer to our advice for authors on bmj.com (<http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors/types-of-article>) or contact Amy Davis (adavis@bmj.com).



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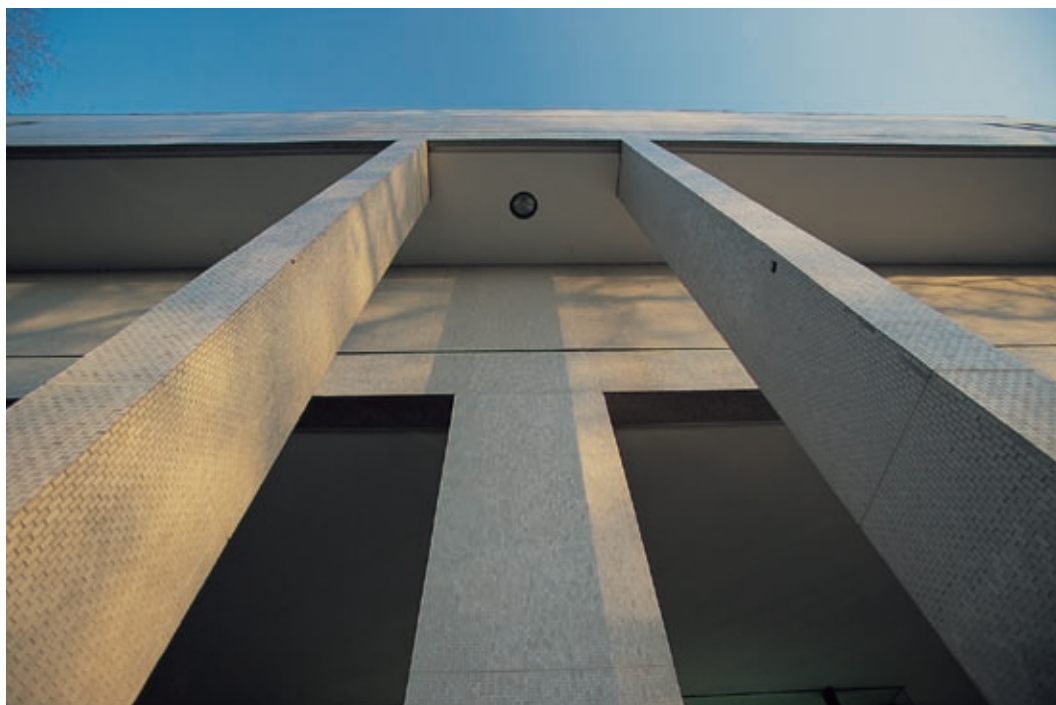
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Published weekly. US periodicals class postage paid at Rahway, NJ. Postmaster: send address changes to BMJ, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd Inc, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA. \$796. Weekly Printed by Precision Colour Printing Limited

**PICTURE OF THE WEEK**

A familiar landmark at an unusual angle—the Royal College of Physicians in London as depicted in a new book that explores the building's design and history. *Denys Lasdun's Royal College of Physicians: A Monumental Act of Faith* by Barnabus Calder includes a guide to the interior and features of this modern classic. Calder, a lecturer in architectural history and theory at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, completed a doctorate on Lasdun two years ago. His book details everything from the commissioning of the building to the shape of the college as it is today.

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

38% Proportion of men in England who have an alcohol use disorder; 26% for women (Clinical Review p 496)

1.55 Drug errors a month made by depressed junior doctors; non-depressed juniors made 0.25 (Research p 488)

95% Proportion of women in England not screened for sickle cell anaemia in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy (News p 468)

75 cl Standard size of wine bottles; why aren't smaller ones available? (Personal View p 507)

250 Children who had received the MMR vaccine in a recent study that again showed no autism link (Observations p 479)

THE WEEK IN QUOTES

"Treatment regimens under DOTS [for tuberculosis] may not be universally successful" (Research p 484)

"New generation antidepressants achieve almost no benefit compared with placebo" (News p 466)

"Conflict of interest ideology purports to promote scientific rigour yet is far from rigorous itself" (Head to Head p 476)

"[Chekhov] wanted to produce a scientific work of substance, something that would 'repay his debt to medicine'" (Medical Classics p 511)

"All screening programmes do harm; some do good as well, and, some do more good than harm" (Analysis p 480)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Gin Lane



ON THE COVER

Daily drinkers: Is alcohol too prevalent?

Editorials, p 455,
Clinical review, p 496,
Views and reviews, p 507

In this week's opening editorial Thomas Babor proposes that countries are like people when it comes to alcohol: some can handle their moderate drinking well, but some—like Britain—develop “a pathological pattern of alcohol misuse” (p 455).

Babor is writing about the BMA's report on alcohol misuse, which came out last month (*BMJ* 2008;336:407) and provided newspapers with the opportunity to print images of young women handling their drink badly. Babor commends the report for marshalling well the evidence for its suggested combination of increased taxes, controlling access to alcohol, and encouraging early intervention and treatment. Such measures, he suggests, might return the UK to its former status as a temperate nation. But temperance isn't the only state historically associated with Britain: not for nothing is Hogarth's *Gin Lane* one of Britain's iconic images.

What works in alcohol misuse, but at the individual level, is also the subject of the Clinical Review on diagnosing and managing alcohol disorders by Andrew Parker and colleagues (p 496). For people whose drinking has not yet become harmful, they emphasise simple and non-judgmental screening questions and brief advice—again simple and non-judgmental—from general practitioners and nurses in primary care and emergency settings.

Trish Groves has a simple suggestion too: why can't half bottles of wine be as available in Britain as they are elsewhere (p 507)? “Selling half bottles won't stop some drinkers from simply having two,” she says, but it might stop the middle aged middle classes from getting wasted.

In some ways “alcohol misuse” seems a

relatively simple subject to debate: alcohol causes known harms and there's wide agreement (and evidence) on measures to minimise the harms and treat them. Quality improvement is a more slippery subject. The ferocity of the letters responding to Chris Ham's editorial on quality failures in the NHS prompted me to re-read what he had written. He was drawing on a Healthcare Commission report on lessons from recent quality failures in the NHS and wrote about the difficulties of establishing a “culture” of safety and of continuous improvement in the NHS, and he emphasised the need for leadership at all levels (*BMJ* 2008;336:340-1). The common theme of our letter writers is that clinicians and trusts don't get a chance to show leadership because of the meddling of politicians—and indeed of policy and management experts such as Ham (p 462-3). This has led, says Chris Luke, to the emasculation and “proletarianisation” of the medical profession (p 463).

Yet this week's journal also has an account of how continuous improvement can be made to work, in the description by Muir Gray and colleagues of how continuous improvement was built into the UK's national breast cancer screening programme (p 480). They emphasise the challenge: “The tasks are repetitive and potentially boring, the margin between success and failure is fine, consumer expectations keep rising, and the potential of errors to destroy public confidence is great.” And their answer? As nuanced as the problem, and they tell the story well.

Jane Smith, deputy editor, *BMJ* jsmith@bmj.com

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PLUS

Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 512.