

Editorial

This edition of *Salus Journal* (Volume 6, Number 2) marks my last journal after six rewarding years as Editor-in-Chief. In 2013 I was offered the opportunity to establish a new academic journal for Charles Sturt University's Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security. Head of the School, Associate Professor Nick O'Brien, had an aspirational goal to publish a journal that would attract papers that would contribute to new knowledge in a wide range of police, criminal justice and national security topics. His vision was for publication of accurate and trustworthy research that met high research standards. He wanted all papers to be judged by a double-blind peer-review process that met best practice in ethical publishing, and—in the spirit of scholarly inquiry—for the journal to follow open-access principles. After six years and sixteen editions, I believe that Associate Professor O'Brien's vision has been fulfilled.

Salus Journal, whose name honours the Roman goddess of safety and welfare, has been accredited by the Australian Research Council (ARC) as an *Excellence in Research for Australia* (ERA) journal. Each edition is indexed in EBSCOhost's research database, RMIT Publishing's *Informit*, Google Scholar, and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Through the journal, scholars from all over the globe have been able to contribute to the body of literature on crime and justice.

I have appreciated the Advisory Board's support and encouragement and I thank members of the Board for allowing me the freedom to manage the editorial matters that I consider have made *Salus Journal* a success. This success has been achieved with the help of a willing panel of international associate editors, the book review editor, and my assistant editor who collectively have assured its academic standard.

Looking to the future, I see the maintenance of high scholastic integrity as the main challenge for all scholarly journals, including *Salus Journal*. The emergence of what sometimes appears to be an avalanche of so-called "predator journals" makes it difficult for researchers to distinguish between a reputable journal and one that will publish simply to make a profit. Keeping vigil over the standard of scholarly inquiry rests with the new wave of open-access journals. Like *Salus Journal*, all open-

access journals must uphold ethical research principles so that researchers are encouraged to publish their findings and practitioners are confident in the trustworthiness of the published research.

I will hand-over the editorship of the journal at the end of 2018 to Drs Emma Colvin and Philip Birch, who joined the journal this year as Co-Deputy Editors. I hope they gain as much satisfaction as I have at the Editor-in-Chief's desk.

Dr Henry (Hank) Prunckun
Editor-in-Chief
Salus Journal

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