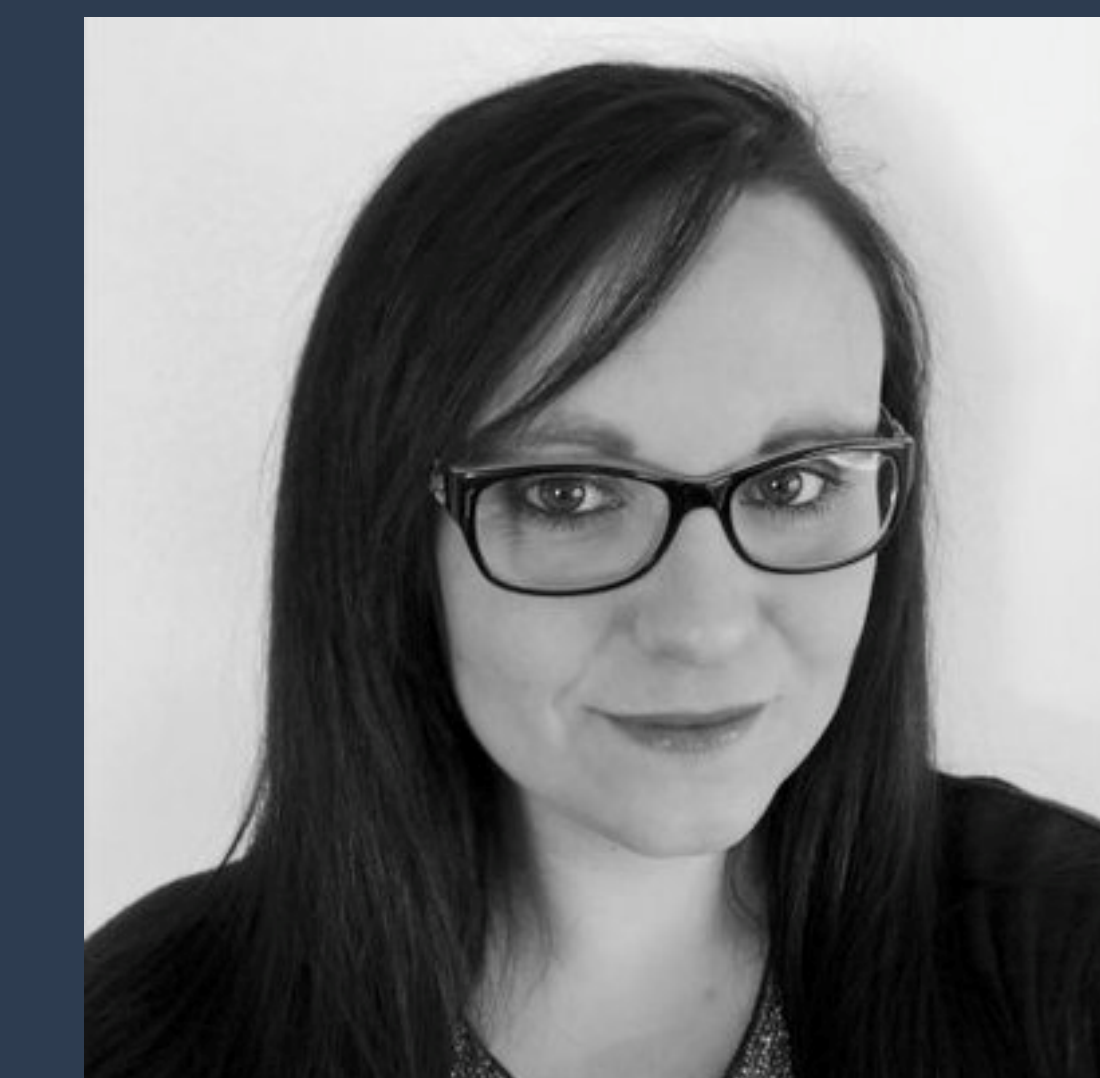




What are the lived experiences of advanced practitioners who have published journal articles in an Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) series?

Barry Hill – Associate Professor of Critical Care & Nursing Education, Director of Education (Employability) Nursing, Midwifery & Health, Northumbria University; Commissioning & Clinical Series Editor (ACP and *at a glance* Clinical)

Sadie Diamond-Fox – Subject Lead for Advanced Practice Programmes & Assistant Professor in Advanced Critical Care Practice (ACCP) - Northumbria University; ACCP Programme Co-Lead & Senior ACCP, Newcastle NHS Hospitals, Advancing Practice Specialty Advisor for Critical Care, NHSE, North East & Yorkshire, ICS Advanced Practitioner in Critical Care Professional Advisory Group (ICS APCC PAG) & Editorial Board Member, International Journal of Advancing Practice



Abstract

Aim: The aim of this study was to establish the lived experience of contributors and readers of the *British Journal of Nursing (BJN)* advanced clinical practice (ACP) series. **Results:** The results of this study are being used to inform the potential development of an exclusive advanced practice journal, aimed at advanced practitioners from all professional backgrounds.

Introduction

Advancing and advanced level practice articles written within a clinical context are limited for contemporary practitioners, especially those working in the UK. Several clinical journals address the topic of advancing and advanced practice specific to a single health profession, mainly nursing. This does not encourage or support the development of advanced practice to be collaborative or inclusive for the contemporary multidisciplinary workforce who work in new roles at an advanced level of practice.

Considering the multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England (1) as well as key drivers for advanced practice in Scotland (2), Wales (3), and Ireland (4), it was noted that opportunities for advanced practitioners to write in a single journal were non-existent. Existing articles concerning advanced practice were mainly aimed at a single professional group. Clear developmental support mechanisms or opportunities for all practitioners to be encouraged to contribute evidence base mapped to the four pillars did not exist.

As such, it was identified that there was and still is an essential need for the creation of advanced level practitioners to come together and publish articles aimed at advanced practice professionals from all professional backgrounds. In January 2021, the *BJN* launched a new ACP series. The series is aimed at those who are practising at an advanced level, or who are undertaking an advanced practice university course. The series covers a range of clinical disciplines, critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning as well as prescribing practice and consultation and clinical assessment.

Methodology

A two-phased approach was utilised to inform the results of our study:

Systematic data were gathered from *BJN* database regarding the number of downloads of each article which appeared within the ACP series between January and May 2021.

An online, anonymous survey was designed and distributed via Microsoft Forms to all ACP series contributors and via Twitter to wider networks, which contained potential readers of the ACP series

Results

Phase 1: A total of 10 articles were published within the *BJN* ACP series between Jan and May 2021. 3158 downloads of said articles (Fig.1) occurred within this period. In order of rank, the three most popular articles concerned the following subjects:

1. Leadership & Management at advanced level (Wood, 2021)
2. Undertaking consultations and clinical assessments at advanced level (Fox, 2021)
3. An introduction to advanced level practice & the scope of developing new roles (Hill and Mitchell, 2021)

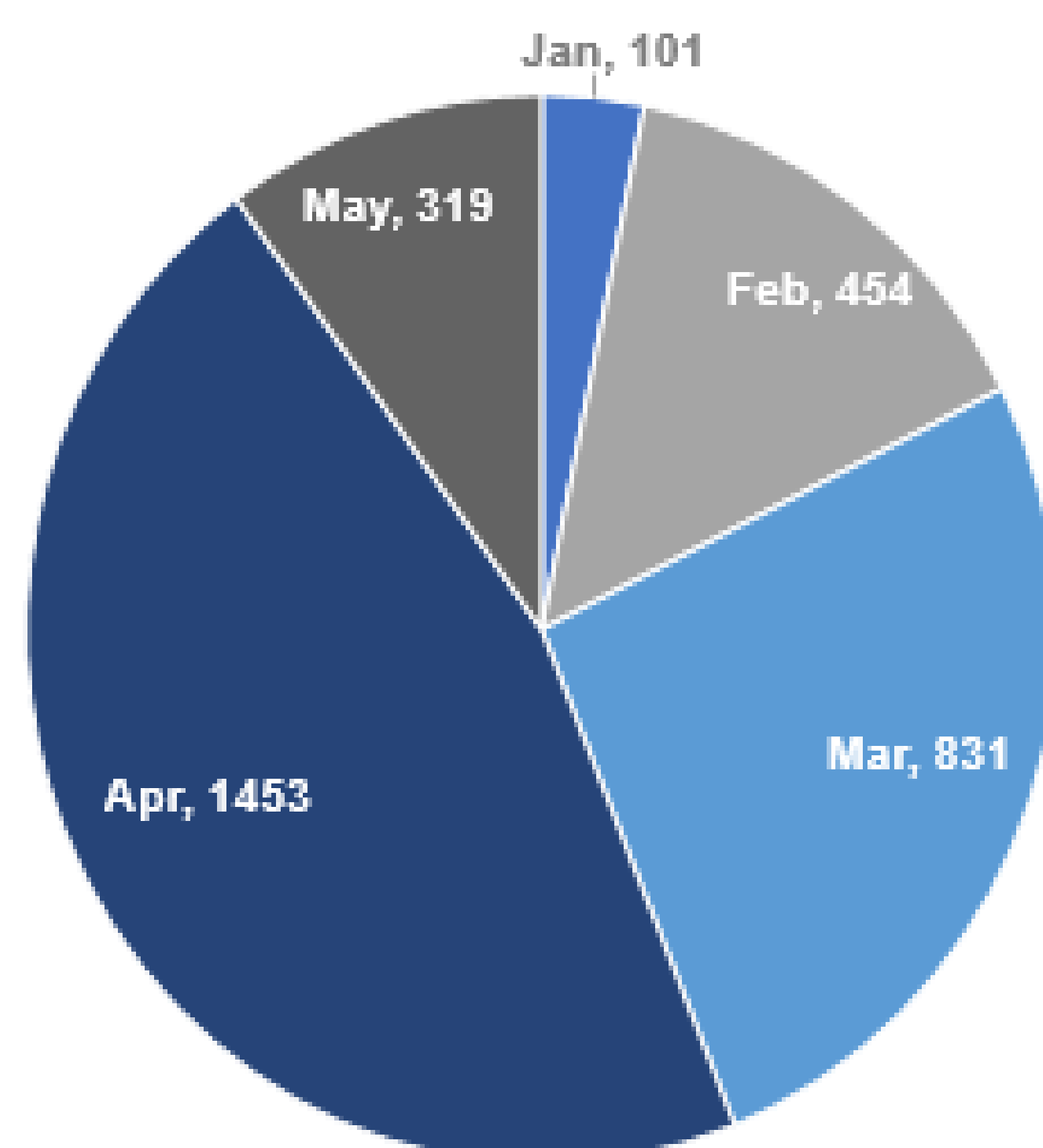
Phase 2: 20 participants, 5 of whom had contributed to articles published in the ACP series, responded to an online questionnaire.

85% of the overall participants rated articles contained within the journal as being of either very high quality or good quality.

40% valued commentary pieces as being the most valuable, followed by 30% clinical skills and 25% research articles, respectively.

85% were in favour of the development of a new multi-professional advanced practice journal.

Fig.1: *BJN* ACP Series - Number of article downloads 2021



Results

Fig. 2: Theme identified in a word cloud



Qualitative Narrative:

"I've never seen a journal offer an MDT approach to advanced practice in this way; this is so refreshing and inclusive" (P1).

"This series has offered a platform to advanced practitioners who didn't have a shared space before to share collaborative practices specific to advanced level practice" (P2).

"This series has addressed all pillars of advanced level practice and is helping evidence-based practice get to practicing clinical staff, it has had real impact in my team, we have used all articles and they have been excellent" (P3).

"The commentaries along with the professional, clinical, and research-based articles are shaping advanced level practice in the UK, that is not my opinion, that's a fact. Everyone is talking about who I work with" (P4).

Conclusion

As academics working within higher education, and as authors of multiple publications (books and articles), we identified a lack of inclusive advanced level platforms enabling an all-encompassing multi-professional approach. To our knowledge the *BJN* ACP article series is the first to welcome articles from all multi-professional advanced practitioner groups. The results of our study demonstrate that there has been significant interest in the journal series, as evidenced by the article download data over the first 6-month period. The results of phase 2 of our study also demonstrates the overall positive feedback in regard to both contributor and reader's experiences of the journal series and participant's agreement that there is an ongoing need for a multi-professional journal aimed at advanced practitioners.



Adapted from: Department of Health, 2010; National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare, 2010

References

1. NHS England [Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England](#).
2. NHS Scotland. [Advanced Practice Toolkit](#)
3. NHS Wales. [Professional Framework for Enhanced, Advanced and Consultant Clinical Practice](#).
4. Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD) & Health Service Executive (HSE). [National Guideline for the Development of Advanced Nursing or Midwifery Practitioner Services](#)

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of the advanced level practitioners who contributed their time and effort into publishing advanced leave practice peer reviewed article with us. Also, this series wouldn't have been possible without the *BJN* team. Thank you to Ian Peate and Sophie Gardner and the editorial team for enabling this platform to exist.