

EDITORIAL

I am happy to be able to present another issue of the International Journal of Mental Health and Capacity Law. The main focus is two articles that present research results in the area of mental capacity law, but in two jurisdictions and from different perspectives. In the first, Watkins, Cooper and Stickler present results from part of a major research project, *Judging Values and Participation in Mental Capacity Law*. More details of this project can be found at its website: <https://www.icpr.org.uk/judging-values-and-participation-mental-capacity-law>. The article has a focus on participation in proceedings before the Court of Protection, the specialist body existing under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (UK): the authors conclude that aspirations set out in the statute and supporting legal instruments to secure participation by the person about whom the court makes decisions are not always met. They call for further research on the matter.

The second article takes us across the Irish Sea to the Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, a major piece of legislation designed to join mental health and mental capacity law when fully implemented. In this article, Boyle, Montgomery and Davidson present their exploratory research on the experience of social workers in operating part of this major new piece of legislation, namely the process of applying to a Trust Panel to authorise what amounts to a deprivation of liberty. They also call for further research to be carried out.

Finally, and maintaining the mental capacity theme, there is a review of Beverley Clough's book, *The Spaces of Mental Capacity Law: Moving Beyond Binaries*, which Alex Ruck Keene finds to be a stimulating read.

I'm grateful to authors, colleagues on the editorial team and also those who provide peer reviews, and those involved at the University of Northumbria who take the final steps in the publishing process. I should note that one member of our editorial team is involved in the *Judging Values and Participation in Mental Capacity Law* project, and I have a role in one publication that will come out of the project, and so steps were taken to secure peer reviewers without any connection.

Kris Gledhill