Guest editor response: a themed journal issue on deprescribing

We thank Rajesh Kamath very much for his letter, giving an Indian perspective on our deprescribing themed issue (*EJHP*, January 2017). It was helpful to know that the themed issue is being viewed from beyond Europe, and his letter also reminds European clinicians like us to be aware of the challenges to deprescribing that worldwide health systems may face. Professor Kamath's letter provides a

valuable insight into some local barriers to deprescribing, in common with the literature that suggests deprescribing is no easy task. The reasons are varied and include cultural approaches to clinical practice. That said, we were also pleased to see Gurusamy Sivagnanam's recent reflections on deprescribing in India,¹ where he helpfully warns us about 'clinical or therapeutic inertia' if deprescribing is not undertaken when it should be. Dr Sivagnanam goes on to outline some educational steps that he and colleagues are taking at the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute. His initiative resonates strongly with our own 'bottom-up approach to education around medication review and deprescribing', and we hope that our respective work will begin the process of culture change in our own health systems. We are well aware that culture change takes time, perhaps generations—but at least the process has begun and we hope that our themed issue stimulates further debate on the important issue of deprescribing.

Barry Jubraj

Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, King's College London, London, UK

Correspondence to Barry Jubraj, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, King's College London, 150 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH, UK; barry.jubraj@kcl.ac.uk

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