

Editorial

The idea for *CAL-laborate* arose one winter's night in 1995, in an isolated cabin in central Sweden. Three individuals were involved: Bengt Kjällerström from the Council for the Renewal of Undergraduate Education¹ (Sweden), Dick Bacon² from the CTI Centre for Physics (United Kingdom) and one of us, Ian Johnston, from UniServe Science (Australia). Each of these organisations was in some way funded from national sources and had responsibility for encouraging the use of new technologies in undergraduate education in their own countries.

There had been considerable exchange of ideas and experiences in the use of computer based educational aids between these three, and other countries, and it was considered essential for the well being of the activity that such exchanges increase and multiply. The costs of developing and maintaining modern multimedia teaching and learning materials is such that few institutions or even countries can really afford to 'go it alone'. The similarities between common core courses in our educational disciplines are much greater than the differences in the educational systems of our various countries. It was hoped that an occasional newsletter, *CAL-laborate*, would help us all to bring the potentials of these facilities and the collective expertise to the attention of the funding bodies of suitable national initiatives.

Things have changed since Volume 1 appeared in October 1997. The CTI network in the UK was replaced by the Learning and Teaching Support Networks who maintained the connection with *CAL-laborate* and now these networks are part of the UK Higher Education Academy. And now the Council for the Renewal of Higher Education in Sweden is to be closed down and its activities distributed elsewhere. It means they will no longer be able to be involved with *CAL-laborate*.

We are sorry to lose the connection, but we would like to record our thanks to Tracey Sorenson for her tireless work as national editor in sourcing articles over the past years. All the best Tracey: we will miss your contribution but I hope we will keep in touch.

Mary Peat, Ian Johnston and Tina Overton

¹replaced by The Council for the Renewal of Higher Education

²Dick Bacon is now affiliated with *Higher Education Academy Physical Sciences Centre*