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Maria Ilyushina has worked at senior level as Head of Languages at secondary level in Russia and has been actively involved in pre and inservice teacher training. She has a particular interest in the ways in which teachers can be encouraged to engage in lifelong professional learning. This meshes with her interest in materials development and she is currently managing the Resources Centre at the British Council, St. Petersburg, Russia.

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Steven McDonough is a Lecturer in Applied Linguistics in the Department of Language and Linguistics at the University of Essex. He has directed both the MA in Applied Linguistics and the MA in English language Teaching and courses for teachers and sponsored groups in the EFL Unit. He has published two books, Psychology in Foreign Language Teaching (Allen and Unwin, 1981) and Strategy and Skill in Foreign Language Learning (Arnold, 1995) and a number of articles. He is mainly interested in language learning processes and strategies, the design of teaching and testing programmes and the possiblities for teachers to engage in research themselves. He and Jo McDonough have just produced a new book on this topic published by Arnold. He can be contacted on email at <mcdon@essex.ac.uk>

**Lori O'Rorke** has lived and worked in Japan for several years. Until recently a full-time teacher in a commercial school, she now has a part-time teaching portfolio including general English teaching and EAP at a nurses' training college. She is currently completing a distance MA in TEFL/TESL with Birmingham University.