

PREFACE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Welcome, all, to the 2nd Issue

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Welcome, all, to the 2nd issue of the McMaster University Medical Journal.

The diversity of the articles in this issue is truly a tribute to that historically sought when selecting students for the undergraduate medical program here at McMaster University ...the diversity that allowed this former geologist to be sitting here typing the preface to a medical journal. For more on the history of selection of students at McMaster University, *Reiter et al* have provided some food for thought in this issue's Medical Education section.

Before diving into our eclectic collage of contents, however, I hope everyone paused to admire this issue's cover art. *Sean de Souza*, a promising young graphics artist at Sheridan College, is the brother of one of my classmates and *MUMJ* section editor; she had good instincts when she suggested we have him design our cover. His image is timeless, at once modern and sleek, yet calling to mind – with its stylized hourglass and antiqued tones – eras long passed, the *ars longa* of Hippocrates.

Headlining this year's issue is our Evidence Based Medicine section, in which *Bandhari* and *Devereaux* artfully support the increased presence of EBM in surgical practice. *Davids et al* succinctly review the diagnosis, staging, prognosis and treatment of well-differentiated thyroid cancer, in addition to discussing the best methods available for follow-up. Continuing in the vein of nitty gritty medicine, *Hanley* provides us with a diagnosis not to miss, and *Nenshi* and *Strode* test our knowledge in this issue's Clinical Quiz ...this being Mac, though, perhaps I should say “learning exercise” rather than “quiz”?! Regardless, learn and enjoy. History and economics play large roles in this issue; *Yan* revisits some of the more recent tragedies in Canadian health care, and the role of politics and economics in the tumultuous history of public health in Canada. *Raza et al* review economic evaluations in health care decision-making, providing insight for those of us who sometimes scratch our heads when the topic arises. *Heal* and *Braun* consider the health and economics impact of what will hopefully become history sooner rather than later, the rising obesity epidemic.

“Innovative” is probably one of the most bandied-about words in our “Mac Speak” . . . in keeping with our tradition of innovation and diversity in health care, *Orange et al* give us the first article in a brand new section for MUMJ, that of Allied Health; their article provides guidelines for physicians wanting to refer patients for multidisciplinary care and follow-up. Keeping future-focused, *Carter* provides insight into the up-and-coming world of Medical Genetics.

And finally, perhaps my favorite piece in this issue, is a touching “Reflection” written by recent McMaster graduate *Dr Jennifer Clement*; I hope you all read this and carry some of its wisdom with you in your back pockets.

This, the 2nd of what will hopefully be many issues of the MUMJ, has truly been a rewarding and insight-laden experience; may you all come away from this issue feeling the same way.

Thank you to all who made this happen.



Sarah M. McMullen
MUMJ Editor-in-Chief

