

FROM THE EDITORS

Preface

Welcome to the McMaster University Medical Journal's sixth volume. This year's editorial board, which includes 21 medical students and their staff advisors, has selected 16 great articles that showcase the diversity of our university's health science students, medical residents and faculty.

Several articles in this year's issue feature topics that make McMaster University's Faculty of Health Sciences unique. The new combined MD/PhD program offered by the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine beginning in the fall of 2007 is highlighted in this issue of MUMJ. Written by four of the program's students (Lindsey MacGillivray, Jeremy Hernandez, Chelsea Maedler and Derek Chu) and Peter Margetts, the article discusses the role of the clinician-scientist in collaborative and translational research. Adrian Edgar reviews the anthology entitled *Peace Through Health: How Health Professionals Can Work for a Less Violent World* (edited by Neil Arya and Joanna Santa Barbara), which describes a movement with strong McMaster roots that dares each of us to cultivate peace through our work as health practitioners. Ross Moncur and James Larmer review the advantages and disadvantages of the intention-to-treat method of statistical reporting in our Evidence-Based Medicine section, while Benjamin Lo, Draga Jichici, Julia Abelson and Nancy Hemrica surprise readers with Hamilton Health Sciences' recent rise as a center of excellence for organ donation through the implementation of a comprehensive donation program.

Some of the articles in this issue pose challenging questions: Khurram Khan and Wael Haddara ask how well physicians record social history for adult inpatients of a community hospital. Archna Gupta and Lisa Schwartz examine whether Canadian insurance providers' questions may act as a barrier to HIV testing. Ross Moncur and A.S. Luthra look critically at the utility of Axis IV of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, which is intended to allow clinicians to document a patient's psychosocial stresses as part of their psychiatric assessment. Rob Gowing, Susan Reid and Forough Farrokhyar describe the results of their survey which sought to determine whether surgical residents are able to fulfill their CanMeds role as managers through current residency curricula. And one of our section editors, Kaitlin Dupuis, tests readers' knowledge of menopause in our clinical quiz.

The role of our journal is also to teach and inform through content that is interesting and well-written. By working closely with the many contributing authors of this issue, we have uncovered a treasure trove of reviews, research and commentary. Everyone will be able to find something of interest here. We have clinical reviews that explain both well-known and new topics, ranging from the double life of the varicella zoster virus (James Henry, Kiran Yashpal and Chitra Laloo) to mirror neurons that gives humans and other animals the capacity for empathy (Lindsey MacGillivray); from an exposition on the artificial pancreas (Shawn Klein) to the prevention of nephrogenic systemic fibrosis associated with the use of the magnetic resonance imaging contrast gadolinium (Ryan Foster and Ryan Rebello). Case reports highlight teaching points on two clinical entities whose names provide no clues: Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber syndrome (Jessica Wasserman and Alexander Rabinovich) and von Willebrand disease (Menaka Pai and Mark Crowther). In our Literature, the Arts and Medicine section, David Clark and Anna Joong have assembled a group of creative pieces that bring us an understanding of what it means to care for the pediatric patient and their family.

We would like to thank all of our contributing authors and encourage your submissions. Please visit our website at www.mumj.org for our full archives and instructions for authors. As our journal continues to grow and change, we will continue to work to bring you content that is as broad, informative and uniquely McMaster as in this year's issue.

Christine Navarro

Editor-in-Chief

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Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine, Class of 2009