dear reader,

Welcome to Issue 32 of The Meducator! As a continuously evolving discipline, the field of health sciences does not exist in isolation from other branches of knowledge. What lies at the heart of science is not simply the biological domain of molecules, cells, and tissues, but rather a series of intricate relationships modulated by a myriad of influences. This concept of interconnectivity is evident in our cover design by graphics member Tony Chen. The unfurling ribbons exemplify how scientific knowledge is intrinsically woven within the fabric of other disciplines. As you peruse this issue, we hope that you may consider how each article exists within an interdisciplinary framework of the health sciences.

Issue 32 begins with our MedPulse piece, in which staff editors Kevin Chen and Parnika Godkhindi work in collaboration with graphics designer Suffia Malik to highlight health-related headlines worldwide. In Pathoprofile, Edward Cui, Eva Liu, and Sylvia Mohanraj elucidate the pathophysiology behind multiple sclerosis, providing an in-depth analysis of the mechanisms behind the autoimmune disease. We continue our longstanding partnership with the McMaster Health Forum through this issue’s Forumspace column. This piece acknowledges how communities of practice can be leveraged to address post-secondary mental health, while showcasing how policymaking factors impact innovations to improve health outcomes.

With the launch of this issue, we introduce two new article formats, Spotlight and Q&A. Spotlight seeks to highlight a contentious health issue to provide readers with insight into the rapidly evolving field of healthcare. With graphics artist Michael Sun, Takhliq Amir discusses the raging opioid crisis in Canada, while James Yu examines the corresponding relationship between American football and chronic traumatic encephalopathy. In addition, Q&A provides a platform for readers to engage with our staff editors. In this publication, Jessica Chee and Daniel Diatlov answer thought-provoking questions to decipher the enigma behind the scientific concepts, sleep and speciation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff members for their unwavering creativity and commitment towards our journal during the 32nd publication cycle. Moreover, we would like to express our immense gratitude to Valerie Kim, Owen Luo, Cathy Lu, and Adrian Marcuzzi for their enthusiasm and dedication as team managers. Finally, we would like to thank you, the readers, for your continued support for The Meducator. We hope that Issue 32 will spur your curiosity and quest for scientific knowledge. Ask questions. Search for answers. Push the boundaries.

Sincerely,

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