

dear reader,

Welcome to Issue 38 of The Meducator!

The interdisciplinary field of health sciences is ever-evolving, with the ongoing pandemic being no exception. It has shaped the way that health sciences is viewed and learned by pushing us to new limits where an abundance of information still remains unknown. While the unknown may seem uncomfortable, it is important to embrace change and emphasize collaboration and patience during these tumultuous times. As displayed in Jeff Zhang’s cover illustration of individuals self-isolating, we all have a part to play in reducing the spread of the virus —the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. We hope that you are staying home, social distancing, and taking measures to help protect yourself and those around you.

Our mandate of facilitating critical discourse within the health sciences continues to be front and centre in Issue 38, which showcases an exciting array of student exploration and inquiry. Editors Matthew Lynn and Hannah Silverman provide an overview of the many bioapplications of spider silk, and its implications for tissue engineering. Dr. Sheila Singh, a principal investigator at the Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute at McMaster University, reflects on her discovery of brain tumour-initiating cells and the future landscape of neuro-oncology. Dr. Suzanne Archie, the Clinical Director of the Cleghorn Early Intervention in Psychosis Program at St. Joseph’s Healthcare, discusses the necessity of teaching youth the relationship between cannabis and psychosis. Through their review of the literature on socioemotional adjustment in children, Madeline Komar identifies respiratory sinus arrhythmia as a potential screening tool for maltreated adolescents. Finally, Ling Yang highlights the impact of media, healthcare, and research representation on the mental health of gender minorities. As you explore this issue, we hope you are inspired to listen to and learn from new perspectives.

In continuation with our recent COVID-19 Mini Issue, Issue 38 features the second installment of an all-new article, MeduStory. MeduStory shines a spotlight on an important topic within the health sciences, highlighting its evolution and global impact. In this installment, Aisling Zeng and Adrian Wong provide a brief history of the first human coronaviruses and how they have contributed towards understanding the current COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the unpredictable nature of COVID-19, we would like to remind you that the information presented in this issue regarding this topic is merely a representation of the current body of knowledge, and is **subject to change**.

Tackling this pandemic requires collaboration between healthcare providers, policymakers, research teams, and everyday citizens. Similarly, this issue of *The Meducator* illustrates the work of many. In particular, we would like to thank our Managing Editors, Aaron and Sophie; Creative Directors, Peri and Wendy; Video Manager, David; Subcommittee Advisor, Zahra; MeduCollab Directors, Michal and Shadi; and MeduPromo Director, Catherine, for their leadership and initiative. Finally, we would also like to express our gratitude to you, our reader, for your continued support of our publication.

Stay curious. Push boundaries. Wear a mask.

Sincerely,



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