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# INTRODUCTION

ISSUE 35

## dear reader,

Welcome to Issue 35 of The Meducator! The field of health sciences is under trial. Whether it is the deep-rooted skepticism surrounding vaccinations or the increasing tide of patients turning towards alternative therapies, healthcare debates can have serious implications for the health of individuals and populations. We are future professionals, researchers, policymakers and citizens; as captured by Wendy Zhang's cover design, it is our responsibility to turn this tide by being stewards of good science. Just as how the physician is depicted to be scrutinizing the minute details of their patient's retina, Wendy reminds us to appraise the news and literature in science with a finer comb. This starts by looking within. After all, translating scientific knowledge is a process: one that starts with the personal awareness to acknowledge the privileges afforded to us by our education.

In Issue 35 of The Meducator, we look outwards. An opinion piece written by Michael Lee and Puru Panchal focuses on the prevalent youth tobacco use in Indonesia and the public health issues that it presents. This issue also features abstracts from the International Women and Children's Health Conference that explore the topics of endometriosis, reproductive health needs in Uganda, and mental health issues within immigrant and refugee families.

In Issue 35 of The Meducator, we also look within. In this issue's ForumSpace, Fellows Chloe Gao, Kartik Sharma, and Peter Belesiotis discuss their planned use of student panels to promote a culture of sexual consent within McMaster University. Dr. James MacKillop, Co-Director of the Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Medicinal Cannabis Research, kindly provides us with timely insights on the future of medicinal cannabis in Canada.

In this Issue, we continue to highlight recent developments in the basic sciences, especially relating to immune pathologies. Editors Milena Cioana and Sarah Asbury examine the disease mechanisms and the clinical presentation of Hodgkin's lymphoma in this issue's Pathoprofile. In his critical review, Kashyap Patel highlights the therapeutic potential of pacritinib in treating myelofibrosis, a rare bone marrow disorder. This is followed by Samantha Visva's critical review of the use of computer modeling to uncover the complex mechanisms underlying regulatory B cell development.

We are excited to continue our newfound collaboration with McMaster students from our School of Nursing. Issue 35's Nursing Section features an opinion piece by Lauren Filbey that addresses the over-medicalization of childbirth; a global perspective detailing a pilot project to improve health literacy in a low-income Hamilton community; and a critical review by Simon Farquharson on the underappreciated role of hidden curricula on nursing education.

We are incredibly thankful to the many talented individuals who have lent their unique strengths to this issue of The Meducator. Kevin, Sheila, Matilda, Bob, Adrian, Edward, Parnika, and Daniel, thank you so much for being incredible student leaders. We would also like to thank the McMaster community for supporting us and engaging with our content. As you read our issue, please remember: science needs you. Exercise your eyes, ears, and voice. Turn the tide: one individual, one family, and one community at a time.

Sincerely,



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