

# dear reader,

Welcome to Issue 37 of The Meducator! From transnational research collaborations to coordinated responses to global crises, the field of health sciences has seen dramatic globalization in recent decades. Although this interconnectivity has brought about tremendous improvements to human health, it has also highlighted the cultural, ideological, and political divisions that hinder collaboration on this challenge that implicates us all. As conveyed by Wendy Zhang’s vibrant cover illustration, we ought to challenge our perceptions and biases toward others and appreciate our deep-rooted commonalities when tackling matters of health. At a time when the global community is gripped by threats of a pandemic, unity is crucial at both the level of policymakers and citizens to combat disease as well as social division. As you peruse the issue, we hope you are inspired to consider your own role in overcoming these barriers.

Editors Aaron and Hargun start off Issue 37 by highlighting global health-related developments in Medpulse. Of special importance is the coronavirus outbreak in China, which has raised concern and elicited precautionary action on an international level. Dr. Caitlyn Mullarkey, an Assistant Professor at McMaster University whose research interests revolve around improving influenza vaccines, shares her opinion on the outbreak in this issue’s Interview Spotlight.

Following MedPulse, editors Daniel and Shadi outline the genetics of valvular heart disease and explore novel treatments to influenza, hepatocellular carcinoma, and glaucoma. Editors Meera and Rohan then discuss the etiology, pathophysiology, and therapeutic advances pertaining to non-small cell lung cancers, a prevalent group of lung cancers that are relatively insensitive to chemotherapy.

In Issue 37, The Meducator continues its collaboration with the McMaster Health Forum as well as The International Women & Children’s Health Conference (IWCH). The ForumSpace article describes barriers and challenges in strengthening food security at McMaster, while the IWCH abstracts explore brain potential-facilitated speech comprehension, knowledge translation strategies in childhood disability, and maternal experiences of racialized women.

We are excited to feature two Critical Reviews and an Opinion column. In his critical review on Alzheimer’s disease, Jake Colautti examines the pathophysiological roles of tau- and beta-amyloid and discusses treatment approaches that target these proteins. Terry Li and Leland Cheung part from basic science to evaluate the benefits and risks of implementing animal-assisted therapy for students at McMaster University. Finally, Hannah Silverman scrutinizes homeopathy’s place in modern medicine.

This issue was the product of close collaboration between all 46 members of our talented and hardworking staff. We cannot express enough appreciation for our hardworking team, the supportive McMaster community, and you, our engaged readers. We would like to give special thanks to our team leaders, Adrian, Annisa, Zahra, Daniel, Karishma, Kevin, Saba, and Suffia for their incredible student leadership. We would also like to give a warm welcome to the incoming Editors-in-Chief, Zahra Abdallah and Kevin Zhao. We are confident that they will continue to advance The Meducator as a platform for academic dissemination and dialogue in the health sciences.

Sincerely,



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