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COVER ARTISTS:

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DEAR READER..

Welcome to Issue 44 of The Meducator! From translational research collaborations to coordinated responses to global pandemics, the Health Sciences field has become increasingly globalized. Such interconnectivity has reshaped healthcare, but also unveiled intersecting structural and sociopolitical barriers to equitable care delivery. Amid these challenges, a critical assessment of disparities in healthcare is vital. Yet equally important is recognizing earnest efforts to address these gaps. The heroic figure depicted on Issue 44's cover, illustrated by Arim Yoo and Elaine Wang, embodies healthcare professions, researchers, and community leaders in their pursuit to overcome these challenges.

Editors Matthew Olejarz and Aditya Misra open Issue 44 by exploring novel health developments around the world, ranging from AI-powered sepsis detection in the United States to the discovery of exosomes in Switzerland. Through extensive literature review, Riyad Asgarali and colleagues explore phage therapies as an emerging alternative to antibiotics. Shifting to Industry Insight, Jacqueline Chen and Ria Patel investigate chronic kidney disease and appraise novel drugs from AstraZeneca, United Therapeutics, and Qidni Labs. In Research Insight, Anjana Sudharshan and colleagues examine the quality and readability of published lay summaries by leading 900 McMaster students in applying the Flesch Reading Ease Formula to 200 lay summaries from 4 journals. Finally, in an Interview Spotlight, Dr. Margaret McKinnon shares her experience working with trauma-related conditions as a clinical neuropsychologist.

We take tremendous pride in our journal's emphasis on grounding evidence-based research in social determinants of health. In MeduAmplify Local, Florence Deng and colleagues examine the Code Red Project, interrogating poverty's grip on healthcare in Hamilton while Elizeveta Kirichek and colleagues discuss gender-affirming care for youth in another MeduAmplify. Next, we introduce MeduGallery featuring artist Mishal Hossain's "In Her Image", a powerful centrefold illustration depicting the complexities in medical diagnoses for marginalized women.

We cannot express enough appreciation for our 95 talented and passionate staff members, faculty reviewers, and the supportive McMaster community, who worked alongside us throughout the 44th publication cycle. In particular, we thank our executive team: Alex, Anna, Arim, Audrey, Cindy, David, Elaine, Eric, Florence, Jacqueline, Jeffrey, Nishaad, Raymond, Serena, and Tharani, for their extraordinary leadership. Lastly, we extend our deepest gratitude to you, our reader, for your continued support of our publication.

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