

Dear Reader,

Recent pharmaceutical controversies have awakened the public from their "drug-induced" slumber. The dream of "miracle" drugs has been shattered with product recalls, warning labels and study results. In light of these events, the public has become more vigilant and cautious. But how long will it be before society is lulled back into gentle complacency by the colourful advertisements of "big pharma"? Shama Sud examines the history of pharmaceutical tragedies from an ethical perspective in her article. To complement this discussion, Sammy Ali provides the science behind why Vioxx, a popular arthritis drug, was deemed unsafe. This issue of the McMaster Meducator also addresses a variety of other medical research topics. Danny Ricci discusses traditional and alternative therapies for Alzheimer's disease. Waqas Kayani reviews the current research in the field of CNS repair through remyelination. Andrew Heikkila explains the pathology of hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer). Finally, Abdullah Alabousi introduces readers to a life without pain in his discussion of CIPA (Congenital Insensitivity to Pain with Anhidrosis).

This has been a fruitful year for the McMaster Meducator. We were recently honoured with an invitation to submit our publication to the permanent collection of the McMaster Health Sciences Library. On behalf of the Executive, I would like to extend my gratitude to the people without which this publication would not be possible: the post-graduate editors for their unwavering support and patience, the Bachelor of Health Sciences Program (especially Del Harnish, Teresa Basilio, Penny Losier and Andrea Phair-Renzi), and the writers for their dedication to quality. My

personal thanks to the Executive for their herculean efforts this year. You have all helped to achieve the perfect blend of art and science that is necessary for the success of this publication. My thanks goes to Jaron Chong, Vice-President, for your support, patience and leadership, Sammy Ali and Jeannette So, VP's Medical Research and Health Ethics, for your skillful editing and resourcefulness, Brent Mollon and Jonathan Liu, Jr. Editors, for fascinating weekly MedBulletins, Anthony Collini, VP Layout and Distribution, for being the patient architect of a truly inspired layout, Katherine Saccucci, VP Graphics, for your aesthetically pleasing graphics, Shama Sud, VP Administration, for your well-organized

minutes, Amandeep Rai, VP of Public Relations, for your innovative advertising strategies, and Edwin Ho, VP of Web Design, for an up-to-date web page. I am truly blessed to work with such exceptional and multi-talented individuals.

On behalf of all the staff and writers, I would like to extend our warmest wishes to you, our readers. Watch for our next issue coming in October 2005!

Sincerely yours,



Jennifer C. Tang

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