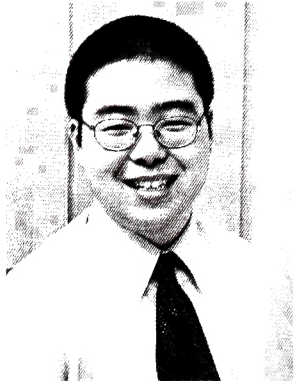


Dear Reader,

It always begins the same way. First a sniffle. Then a runny nose. Maybe bleary eyes and a headache. But within a week you feel better and get on with your life.

The sniffles were not what we had in mind.



This issue promises to be one of our most hard-hitting to date as we tackle this year's first theme: infectious diseases. Join Joseph Catapano as he examines West Nile Virus, an endemic and emerging disease in North America. Elena Igwe delivers a potent response to antibiotic resistance with new developments in anti-microbial peptides. As of late, Avian Bird Flu has been all over the news. Explore influenza H5N1's potential for pandemic in my article and learn about probable treatments with Romy Cho's report on influenza vaccines and antiviral medications. Finally, in a collaborative article by Niranjana Vijayakanthan, Mohammad Zubairi, Hamilton Candundo, Brent Mollon, Gregory Agate, they discuss the possibility of the vanquished smallpox virus re-emerging as a looming biological weapon.

The sniffles were *definitely* not what we had in mind.

Every issue owes its creation to the brilliant cooperation of post-graduate editors, sponsors, writers, and staff members. First and foremost, I would like to extend our immense gratitude to our post-graduate editors, who have taken time out of their busy schedules to provide our writers with valuable insight and feedback. Over the years, the Meducator has had unwavering and tremendous support from Dr. Del Harnish and the Bachelor of Health Sciences Program, for which we are truly grateful. Our publication would be a collection of blank pages without the thoughts and words of our writers, whose extraordinary efforts are presented to you today. Over the past two years, I have had the distinct honour of working with the finest Executive assembled: Brent Mollon, Vice-President, for your leadership and impeccable attention to detail. Jeannette So, Shama Sud, and Jonathan Liu, VP's of Medical Research & Health Ethics, for your close work with both post-grad editors and writers, as well your exemplary editing acumen. Anthony Collini, Creative Director, for your dazzling artistic talent and keen sense of aesthetics. Amandeep Rai, VP of Public Relations, for your amazing ads, tenacious correspondence, and the smarts to put technical and interpersonal skills together. Edwin Ho, VP of Web Design, for your incredible command of all things web related. Finally, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest executive members: Harjot Atwal, Crystal Chung, Tyler Law, Joshua Ng, Sarah Mullen, and Fify Soeyonggo.

On behalf of all of the writers and staff, we hope you enjoy this issue of the McMaster Meducator.

Yours truly,

Jaron Chong

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