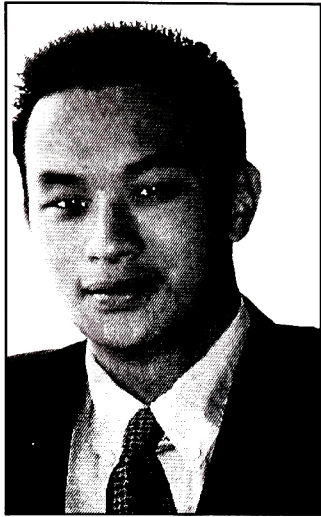


Dear Reader,

This year is already shaping up to be another exciting one in medicine. Vaccine programs for HPV have started in various states, the incoming CMA president is a staunch supporter of starting a privatized healthcare sector, and Canadian researchers recently discovered new genetic markers common to all Alzheimer's patients which will hopefully result in rapid and accurate future diagnoses. This terse survey of what has already transpired demonstrates that the field of medicine continues to quickly evolve. I hope you, our readers, will find that our MedWire is a useful tool to catch up on recent breakthroughs that you might have missed.



Most of today's medical research relates to solving a problem in an innovative way, which is the overarching theme of this issue. Mark Adams takes us through current high-resolution tools for identifying genetic irregularities while Siddhi Mathur writes about virotherapy – a novel way of introducing therapeutic genes through attenuated viruses. As the popularity of laparoscopic surgery continues to increase, Russell Fernandes presents an excellent overview and technological assessment of robotic-assisted laparoscopic removal of cancerous prostate glands.

For something a bit closer to home, Amandeep Rai provides a comprehensive review of evidence-based medicine – one of McMaster's greatest contributions to medicine. Finally, as a new tradition of including a column written by a professor in each issue, Dr. Randall addresses several misconceptions held by many Canadians of a "private" healthcare system.

I would first like to thank each writer and post-graduate editor for their time and contribution; this publication exists because of your collaborative efforts. It has also been a pleasure working with a team of talented editors, designers, and marketers. There are many I would like to thank once more: Tyler Law, for your invaluable advice; Crystal Chung, for the extra time you put into re-designing the layout; Shama Sud, Jeannette So, Harman Chaudhry, Harjot Atwal, and Sarah Mullen, for your attention to details; Amandeep Rai, for your ceaseless marketing wit; Navpreet Rana, for keeping us organized; Ran Ran, for the unprecedented cover designs; Stephanie Low, Jacqueline Ho, and Siddhi Mathur, the future of this publication; and Dr. Del Harnish along with the Bachelor of Health Science staff, who have all supported us in every possible way.

For those wishing to join the team next year, I encourage you to visit our webpage (www.meducator.org) in early September for applications. We also welcome submissions pertaining to topics in medicine and medical ethics from undergraduate students from any field of study. Finally, on behalf of the entire Meducator staff, we hope you find this issue both enjoyable and informative!

Yours Truly,

Jonathan Liu
B.A.Sc III

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