



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

EVIDENCE >> INSIGHT >> ACTION

This issue's cover is a view of the McMaster Health Forum's DialogueSpace, a state-of-the-art, multipurpose venue that supports collective problem solving (for a full view of the DialogueSpace, see page 11). The DialogueSpace hosts stakeholder dialogues, an innovative process developed by the Forum that marshals the best research evidence and convenes stakeholders for an off-the-record discussion on pressing health challenges. This approach aims to facilitate the integration of research evidence and the tacit knowledge, views and experiences of stakeholders towards generating unique insights that can inform future policies and actions. In this issue's feature article, Theresa Tang and I discuss the Forum's stakeholder dialogue on "health and emerging global issues". It is expected that this dialogue will generate unique insights that can inform the development of Canadian global health policies.

Photos of past and present leaders in Canadian healthcare are found on the wall of the DialogueSpace in the McMaster Health Forum. They serve to inspire stakeholders to make the difficult decisions demanded by current healthcare challenges. Our cover captures some of these photos, starting from left to right, Emily Stowe, first woman to practice medicine in Canada; Oronhyatekha, first aboriginal Oxford scholar and second aboriginal physician in Canada; Boron Chisholm, first deputy minister of health in Canada and first director general of the World Health Organization; and John Evans, proponent of problem-based learning, which the Forum has extended into collective problem-solving. We chose to represent the McMaster Health Forum through these photos because they captured the spirit of the Forum's mission: galvanizing our current healthcare leaders towards informed action.

Our feature article is followed by Richard Wu's

Research Insight article on the physiological effects that *Lactobacillus reuteri* evoke on murine gastrointestinal motility. The central focus of his research is to characterize these effects to better understand the communication between beneficial gut microorganisms and the host nervous system. This is followed by Alexander Leung's *Research Insight* article on searching for novel therapies against the ubiquitous opportunistic pathogen, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Leung describes the use of high throughput screening in identifying compounds that synergize with known antibiotics. Finally, we have included an interview with McMaster's renowned Dr. Salim Yusuf. Jordan Campbell, Sheiry Dhillon, Caylea Foster, and Hiten Naik sat down with Dr. Yusuf to discuss determinants of cardiovascular disease in developing nations.

In closing this letter, I would like to extend my thanks towards The Meducator Team for their tireless work in implementing many of the changes that the publication has undergone over this last year. In particular, I would like to thank Brian Chin, Creative Director, for leading our Graphics & Design Team towards a complete redesign of the publication's layout. I would also like to thank Ijlal Syed, Web Director, for launching a new website that contains a professional archive, which will serve to preserve The Meducator's work in the coming years. I also extend thanks to Khaled Ramadan, Lead Senior Editor, for managing the Editorial Board towards a review of our content during this semester. Thanks are also extended to Sangeeta Sutradhar, Lead, Public Relations, for overseeing the successful marketing of the publication. Finally, I thank Hiten Naik, Vice-President, for his support and leadership during the year. I wish him good luck as he takes on the presidency for the 2011-12 term.

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