



dear reader,

We are thrilled to present to you our first neuroscience-themed issue! The complex field of neuroscience is one that contemporary science is only beginning to unfold; nevertheless, the implications that neuroscience holds at both the individual and societal levels are enormous. In this issue, we highlight undergraduate research pieces that shed light on elements of this rapidly advancing discipline.

In the first *Critical Review*, Alexandra Annibale delves into the topic of post-stroke aphasia, a neurological disorder that affects an individual's ability to communicate and/or properly understand speech. In particular, Annibale discusses the importance of considering alternative therapies in light of the increasing number of individuals who will be affected by aphasia as a result of the aging demographic. The second *Critical Review*, by Laura Zuccaro, provides an in-depth exploration of how the central nervous system forms neural representations of the external world to predict and adjust motor movements. Zuccaro analyzes the "reaching task" in the context of this theory, and examines how autistic and non-autistic patients differ in their motor abilities.

The Meducator also had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Sheila Singh, a clinician-scientist working in the field of neuroscience. In her interview, Dr. Singh discusses her groundbreaking research on brain tumour-initiating cells, as well as her hopes for future generations of clinician-scientists.

Finally, our *ForumSpace* and *Opinion* columns touch on some of the controversies surrounding vaccines and vaccination. Specifically, in our collaborative *ForumSpace* column, Asha Behdinin and Crystal Chan take a critical look at the role of ethics and evidence in a proposed policy mandating influenza vaccination for all front-line healthcare providers in B.C. Meanwhile, in our *Opinion* column, Mohsin Ali and Branavan Manoranjan investigate the role of media and emotional perception in the dissemination of scientific discoveries to the public. A particular focus is placed upon the autism-MMR vaccine scandal that drew headlines throughout the past decade.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our entire team for their tremendous efforts and dedication to *The Meducator*. We are deeply honoured to have served as Editors-in-Chief this year and to have been able to work with such extraordinarily talented individuals. In particular, we want to recognize our graduating and departing staff – their continued dedication to *The Meducator* over the course of their undergraduate careers has helped to make the journal what it is today. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Yours sincerely,



Lebei Pi

LEBEI PI



Andrew Webster

ANDREW WEBSTER