

## dear reader,

Thank you for picking up Issue 24 of *The Meducator*, McMaster's undergraduate health sciences journal. The field of health sciences is like a web comprised of intertwining disciplines, all working together to improve health at the individual, societal, and global scale. As such, this issue aims to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the field, and illustrate how each thread is essential to improving human health as a whole.

On one end, this issue features a wide array of topics that explore the health sciences at a larger scale. The brand new *Global Perspective* article allows authors to discuss healthcare issues in the context of their own experiences working within a community. In this piece, Hannah Roche discusses barriers to healthcare faced by children with cerebral palsy in Ghana due to societal stigmas. Elaborating on the impact of society on healthcare, the *Opinion* piece by Stephanie Wan explores the cultural pressures and ethical implications in the controversial phenomenon of sex-selective abortion. Furthermore, in the *ForumSpace*, Asha Behdian and Cheryl Young discuss the complex issue of multimorbidity, and offer various potential solutions to address this problem. Finally, Nikita Arora's *Critical Review* uses Malawi as an example to discuss how NGOs can partner with communities to provide more effective and sustainable aid.

Complementing the larger-scale perspectives, this issue then brings to focus the finer aspects of the health sciences. Grace Zhang's *Critical Review* discusses current and developing technologies available for detecting foodborne pathogens. Meanwhile, Helen Genis writes about the complex cellular mechanisms revolving around traumatic brain injury. Delving into neural circuits, Maxwell Tran and Ishan Aditya explore the complementary relationship between music and tonal languages, and its implications in treating communication disorders. Furthermore, look out for the new *PathoProfile* piece, which is a collaborative project by *The Meducator* editors and artists that visually depicts the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying various human diseases. In this issue, Annie Cheung, Arlinda Deng, and Annie Zhu focus on lupus nephritis, an inflammatory disease of the kidney.

Additionally, our *Interview Spotlight* features an insightful interview with Dr. Stephen Walter, who was one of four McMaster faculty members to be recently elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Here, Dr. Walter talks about the interdisciplinary nature of his work in statistical methods, and shares some advice to undergraduate students who are considering various career choices.

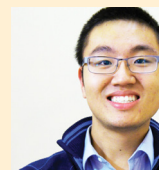
We would like offer our deepest gratitude to our talented staff for sharing the vision of McMaster's undergraduate health sciences journal and bringing our 24th issue to life. Our diligent Editorial Board has not only been refining this issue to perfection, but has also been regularly engaging undergraduate students through our new blog at [www.meducator.org](http://www.meducator.org). Meanwhile, the creative eye of our Graphics & Design Team has once again rendered *The Meducator* as a vibrant and dynamic read. Last but not least, our new Video Team has further extended the reach of *The Meducator* by communicating ideas in the health sciences in an engaging video format. This publication would not be possible without the dedicated support of our staff, authors, and readers. We truly hope to bring into perspective the multidimensional facets of the field of health sciences, and spark inspiration and curiosity amongst the undergraduate community.

Enjoy your read!



*Yasmeen M.*

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