

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editors

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the remarkable occasion of the tenth anniversary of the NZMSJ. I am thrilled the Journal continues to be in print. I am even more heartened to see that it has truly become a nationally produced journal since its establishment in Dunedin 2003/2004. Congratulations are due to all those involved over the last ten years.

Looking back, I am struck by the feat that was creating the NZMSJ. It was the brain-child of Dr Ayesha Verrall, an Otago medical student at the time. Under her leadership, Dr Maartje Beckers, Dr Ajay Sud and I somehow managed to create a respectable medical journal for medical students by medical students. Did we know what we were doing? Certainly not. But with the support of the Dunedin School of Medicine and the Higher Education Development Centre, University of Otago, we were able to produce an inaugural issue that demonstrated the potential of such a publication.



Drs Ajay Sud, Ayesha Verrall and Mel Lauti pictured with the first issue of the NZMSJ.

The purpose of the NZMSJ is to act as a stepping stone for medical students between writing for medical school and academic writing for submission to professional journals.¹ The first issue of the NZMSJ did so with an impressive eight articles, six features and an education piece. Of the articles, four were research papers and four were review articles. In doing so, it provided an opportunity for exemplary work produced by medical students for research projects and course work to be showcased; benefiting others and themselves as they experienced the journal submission process. The importance of such a process is exemplified by the recent establishment of the Australian Medical Student Journal.²

I hope celebrating ten years in print motivates the medical student community, editors and contributors, to continue the NZMSJ with passion and innovation. Let us continue to show case exemplary work by our future doctors.

Thank you to all those who went after us and long may NZMSJ continue.

With kind regards,

Mel Lauti
Co-editor First Edition NZMSJ

I. Lauti M.

NZMSJ: New Zealand medical student journal takes off.
ANZAME. 2004;31(1):1.

2. Schiller MD.

What is the place of a student medical journal?
Med J Aust. 2010;193(4):247.

To the Editors,

Congratulations on the tenth anniversary edition of the NZMSJ.

Ten years ago, a group of medical students, supported by members of the Faculty of Medicine, and Mr Russell Butson from the Higher Education Development Centre, University of Otago, were excited about the possibility of establishing a journal that would allow students to publish and share research. Our aim was always to achieve a high quality publication of interest to medical students, which provided a learning environment for authors as well as the editorial board.

It involved a lot of effort and determination at the time, but we also had a lot of fun, learnt a lot and were proud of the first edition. However, the most difficult part was yet to come - for this we handed over the reigns of the journal as we moved on with our medical careers. Subsequent medical students shared our enthusiasm and continued to shape the journal to be what they felt it should be.

Looking back at my time working on the NZMSJ, I feel proud and privileged to have had the experience, and I encourage anybody considering becoming involved in the production of the journal, or submitting material to the journal to seize the opportunity.

Congratulations again to all the members of the current NZMSJ board, and to all the past members and contributors. You can feel proud of your achievement!

"We are all apprentices in a craft where no one ever becomes a master"
- Ernest Hemingway

Yours sincerely,

Maartje Lyons
Co-Editor, First edition of the NZMSJ

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Thanks to:
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