

Issue 22 and beyond

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Welcome to Issue 22 of the New Zealand Medical Student Journal (NZMSJ)! This issue delivers excellent articles from a wide range of areas in medicine.

Medical publishing has inherent publication bias. Vanessa Shen has produced a detailed article investigating publication bias in subfertility literature. She has clearly highlighted how this impacts physicians and policymakers who rely on accurate and unbiased data for decision making.

Authors Henry Wallace and Cameron Wells, in separate articles, have weighed the physical and psychological risks of sentinel node biopsy in melanoma. In another article, Atif Slim — a past editor of the NZMSJ, presents a case report of Group A streptococcal meningitis. With two-thirds of the New Zealand population being overweight or obese, making healthy food choices is a national imperative. One initiative that aims to address this issue is a traffic light food labelling system. Katherine Given has analysed and given a thorough overview of the current arguments for and against traffic light food labelling. Issue 22 also includes three insightful and thought-provoking book reviews of: *When Breath Becomes Air*, *Being Mortal*, and *Five Days at Memorial*.

Our Journal has come a long way since 2004. We continue to publish original, high quality articles from students across New Zealand. It is important that we constantly look to improve. An area of improvement is maintaining continuity of vision within the NZMSJ editorial board. Normally, the editors of the NZMSJ are involved for two to three years before they graduate. This results in a high turnover rate of editors, where the team are operating with a different vision on a year to year basis. This variance in approach is welcomed, as it injects creativity and brings in a wider set of ideas. However, in the long-term, the Journal needs continual foresight to adapt and navigate the ever changing medical research landscape. One way to address this question is to implement an Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board will consist of expert members interested in nurturing and cultivating medical student research, with the aim of providing governance and direction to the NZMSJ over a long-time frame. We have received support and assistance from both medical schools, Otago and Auckland. By the release of the next issue in November, we aim to have this team of experts confirmed.

In the meantime, we hope you find lots of interesting material to read in Issue 22, which will further your love for medical literature and research. Our final congratulations to the authors who have published for their very first time and to our returning authors.

For more information about how to submit your work, see our website nzmsj.com/submission.

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