
Editorial

The editors are honoured to present this sample of research and writing by New Zealand's medical students. The first issue of the New Zealand Medical Student Journal cannot do justice to the breadth and quality of research that exists within the student community. Instead we have the more modest aim of demonstrating the potential benefits to medical education that could arise from this publication.

The era of evidence-based medicine requires that practitioners use medical literature to guide their clinical practice. Contributing to that literature forms an important part of a practitioner's role. The primary benefit of a medical student journal is to provide doctors-in-training with an entry point into this world, both as authors and as readers. The NZMSJ is a forum through which students can learn from the experiences and insights of other students across the country.

Parallel to developments in medical science are growing demands that practitioners have a greater awareness of the ethical and social elements of their practice. The NZMSJ offers students a nationwide forum to debate such issues.

We hope the current issue stimulates contributions and ideas for the development of the journal. Although in its first year the journal has been published by a small group of students working from Dunedin, its aim is for closer collaboration with students from all medical schools. Support from the University of Otago has been crucial in the journal's development. University staff in various positions have assisted with funding and provided technical assistance as well as advice and ideas. The work of academic reviewers in critically appraising submissions has been invaluable as a quality check for the publication, and a source of feedback for authors.

Other organisations have generously provided financial support for the journal's first issue and they are acknowledged throughout the journal.

Although supported by hospital clinicians and university academics, the journal is ultimately managed by students, and its continuation is dependent on student participation as contributors and as volunteers involved in publication.

Enjoy the inaugural issue. We hope it stimulates contributions for the next.

Notes to contributors

The NZMSJ offers New Zealand medical students a supported forum to make the transition from writing for medical school to publishing quality academic work in professional journals.

The journal publishes research papers produced by medical students, case reports and appreciations, and other content that is educational and/or of interest to medical students and deemed suitable by the governing Editorial Board. The NZMSJ aims to have at least a national distribution and readership. The NZMSJ aims to have at least a national distribution and readership.

The quality of the journal will reflect the strength of the research New Zealand's medical students can produce.

You can contribute to the NZMSJ by writing articles or features.

Guidelines for authors follow the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals, and authors are encouraged to consult the BMJ Stylebook (online at www.bmj.com).

The NZMSJ Editorial Board makes all decisions about content on the basis of its content policy.

For full details about making a submission to the NZMSJ, author guidelines, and helpful hints, consult the website www.otago.ac.nz/nzmsj or contact the Editors.