

» Editor's welcome

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Welcome to Issue 26 of the New Zealand Medical Student Journal (NZMSJ)! This is yet another issue containing a multitude of stimulating articles that showcase just a small sample of the high quality work that is undertaken by medical students and academics in New Zealand.

The main focus of this issue is on the approaches that students may take to their future choice of medical specialty. We are privileged to have a number of high-profile academics and clinicians contributing their thoughts on this subject. Professor Phillippa Poole offers a bird's eye view of the topic, reviewing the New Zealand data around student interests in different specialties and the main factors students have in mind when making career choices. The other three invited articles discuss the choice of specialty from the perspectives of general practitioners, physicians, and surgeons. Dr Medicott describes the satisfaction and variety that comes from the work of a general practitioner, addresses the student myths surrounding the profession, and outlines why talented individuals should think of specialising in general practice. Professor Beckert and Dr Claire present the unique nature and wide scope of work as a general physician as a dialogue between a student and a physician. Finally, Mr Lander, Mr Adams and Mr Barrett discuss the attributes of a surgeon and offer a glimpse of the future of surgery. Each of the articles briefly outlines the training pathway in each specialty.

The academic articles included in this issue feature two outstanding reviews and a study proposal which have won awards in their respective fields. William Muller elaborates on the pros and cons of introducing a melanoma screening programme in New Zealand. The work of Talitha Claassens, a nursing graduate, offers an opportunity for interprofessional learning. Her article thoroughly evaluates the tools available to the multidisciplinary medical team for the management of acute post-surgical pain. Olivia Thompson discusses the potential links between Adie's tonic pupil and infection with Zika virus in her case report. Finally, Aleksandra Turp proposes an investigation to further the understanding of the relationship between nicotine use, composition of gut microbiota, and ulcerative colitis.

The feature articles offer the reader a strong taste of adventure. Anthony Lau describes his long-standing passion for work as a St John ambulance officer and describes some of the most interesting cases he has encountered during his volunteering experiences. Jesse Tettero and Vera de Jonge, two medical students at the VU Medical Centre in Amsterdam, compare and contrast various aspects of medical training between New Zealand and the Netherlands. We also feature three

very interesting selective reports. Benjamin Booker gives us a deep insight into the work undertaken in the rural Kaitiāia Hospital, delivering health care to some of New Zealand's most needy communities. Danni Wang describes her fascinating experiences and cultural encounters whilst working in an Obstetrics and Gynaecology department in one of Beijing's hospitals. Alistair Lock offers a taste of the activities and training at the only aviation medicine centre in New Zealand, located at the Royal New Zealand Air Force base in Whenuapai.

In this issue we are proud to display the creativity of New Zealand medical students alongside our usual media reviews section. Rebecca Duncan uses her postgraduate training experience to evaluate a book by Rosemarie Tong, 'Feminist Approaches to Bioethics: Theoretical Reflections and Practical Applications'. Iain Miller reviews a podcast highly relevant to New Zealand medical students entitled 'Land of the Long White Coat' by Dr Joshua Smith. Last but not least, the two poems presented as part of the 'NZMSA/NZMSJ Creative Writing' competition won by Mosana Evagelia and Ethan Breinhorst, remind us of some of the strong emotions we can sometimes experience in our encounters with patients. These poems are excellent examples of translating these feelings and energy into a unique expression which captures both the personal aspect of these encounters and their universal nature, allowing each medical student to identify with the author.

The Editorial Board would like to thank the University of Otago and the University of Auckland for their ongoing support towards the journal. Without their financial and academic support, publishing this journal would not be possible. We would also like to acknowledge the MAS for their funding and NZMJ for their guidance and support. Finally, we are grateful for the input of, and collaboration with, the professional colleges, including the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

We hope Issue 26 will provide NZMSJ readers with a variety of engaging articles. We would like to congratulate all of the authors who have contributed towards it and encourage all readers to submit their work to NZMSJ in the future.