

Welcome to the first edition of the New Zealand Medical Student Journal's and New Zealand Medical Students' Association's joint Creative Writing Competition! This collaboration aims to promote the creative talent we have bubbling away in our medical schools and to hopefully inspire readers to give it a shot themselves.

Anyone can enter so send your entries through to [reviews\\_editor@nzmsj.com](mailto:reviews_editor@nzmsj.com) for a chance to be published in future editions of the journal. Any creative piece is considered (not just poetry) so let your ideas flow! Now read on below to see this issue's successful writers.

# The patient patient

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Melanie is a fourth year medical student who grew up sailing the South Pacific before being based in the Bay of Islands. She has interests in public health and surgery.

It was afternoon when I walked by  
In a hurry, but not to do anything  
Excuse me  
You said  
Are you my doctor

No sorry  
I'm just  
A medical student  
I said  
Trying to speak loudly  
But not knowing  
What was loud enough to hear  
But quiet enough  
To not be patronising

In my head  
I thought  
I need to stop saying that I am just  
A medical student  
A kind registrar told me off  
For making myself seem more  
Worthless  
Than I already feel

Oh  
You said  
No one  
Has come today

I stared  
Blankly  
You are not  
On my list  
I thought  
You are not  
My  
Patient

I said  
What time do they normally come around  
Although I knew  
They should have already come

Maybe you had been  
In the bathroom  
Or at a  
Procedure  
And the team was too  
Busy  
To wait  
Or come back  
I thought

But you wouldn't  
Know  
You'd feel forgotten  
I know

Normally the morning  
I don't know  
I don't even know  
The day  
You said

I'm so sorry  
About that  
I tried to  
Explain  
Worrying  
Did I force  
Genuine care  
Too much

But I am  
Sorry

That you had to be  
A patient patient  
Waiting  
Feeling  
Forgotten

I'll get your nurse  
And ask them to page  
Your doctors  
I hope  
They can help  
And  
That I have helped  
And that I  
Will  
Help