

EDITORIAL

Editors' welcome

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Kia ora and welcome to Issue 29 of Te Hautaka o Ngā Akongā Rongoā, or the New Zealand Medical Student Journal (NZMSJ)! This issue marks our 15th anniversary, which is a significant milestone for us when we reflect on the achievements and growth of the Journal. We are delighted to continue to present the high quality of work conducted by medical students and academics in Aotearoa.

The theme of this issue is, "Towards equity in health care", which is a pertinent topic to both medical students and other health care professionals in Aotearoa. There are many sub-topics to consider regarding (in)equity in health care. Although we were unable to address them all in this issue, we were fortunate to be able to address a significant proportion through our invited, feature, and media review articles.

We are extremely grateful for Professor Peter Crampton's invited article that presents a clear message on how we can progress toward equitable outcomes for Māori and Pasifika people at an individual to a governmental level. We are also privileged to have Dr Lucy McKay, Director of Medics4RareDiseases, write a fascinating article on the current state of rare disease education in medical school and how her organisation is advocating for change.

We were pleased to receive so many feature article submissions related to our theme. Starting with climate change, Cameron Toogood highlights its detrimental effects on groups most affected by health inequities in Aotearoa, including low socio-economic, Māori, and Pasifika individuals. There is an insufficient rural health workforce to provide an equitable health service across Aotearoa. Benjamin Alsop-ten Hove reviews the wonderful initiatives conducted by student rural medicine organisations and the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network to attract pre-tertiary students living in rural areas to a vocation in health. Rex Liao provides an overview of Asian health. His article is an informative introduction to a topic that has been largely neglected. In the annual review on the New Zealand Medical Students' Association's (NZMSA) activities, Fraser Jeffery, the NZMSA President, discusses how they have focused on gender equity in medicine and improving leadership diversity within their own organisation to be more representative of the students they represent. We were delighted to invite the President of the Pacific Island Health Professional Students' Association (PIHPSA), Fuatino Heath, and the Tumuaki of Te Oranga, Chayce Glass, to write articles on how their organisations have represented and supported our Pasifika and Māori students. Last but not least, we have the first Māori Health Review article written by Emma Espiner, which is the start of a new series for the NZMSJ. In this article, Emma discusses the Health Safety and Quality Commission's report on Māori health equity, the success of Te Ara Tika pilot smoking cessation programme aimed at young Māori wahine, and a review presented at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress on indigenous peoples' perspective on biobanking and genomics.

The media review articles in this issue also support our theme. Emily Yi reviews the documentary, "Unnatural causes: Is inequality making us

sick?" and its associated online resources. For medical students, the stories told in the documentaries will help them to understand the impact of social determinants of health on health (in)equity. Meanwhile, Sylvia Duncan reviews the *International Handbook of Health Literacy* by Okan et al, which serves to remind us the importance of health literacy in achieving equitable health outcomes.

We were impressed by the calibre of work presented in our academic articles. Andrew Jayasuria et al conducted a study investigating medical students' views on the teaching and learning of the male genital examination, which is highly relevant to both medical students and academics. Dr Paul Huggan wrote an overview of sepsis, which will be the first of a series on academic overviews for the NZMSJ. We are also proud to publish Dr Steve Waqanivalvagi et al and Natalie Allen's case reports on ciguatera fish poisoning and an unusual presentation of Gianotti Crosti syndrome, respectively.

We have two additional feature articles to complete our impressive selection in this issue. As part of our regular interview series, Tim Hall and Emily Yi met with Dr Debbie Hughes and Sue van Mierlo from Anamata CAFE (Clinics and Advice for Everyone) to discuss their much-needed free sexual health services for youth. It is fascinating to read about the services they provide that would not be as easily done in the more structured health system. Last but not least, Associate Professor Robin Turner et al, from the University of Otago Biostatistics Unit, have kindly written another statistics primer for us. This time, the article is on receiver operator characteristic (ROC) curves, which is a useful statistical concept to understand when reading clinical studies.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Rubayet Arefin, Robin Page and Michael Hayton for winning this issue's Creative Arts Competition. This competition is an ongoing collaboration with NZMSA to showcase our fellow medical students' creative talents. Rubayet and Robin both crafted poems related to their clinical experiences, while Michael captured a stunning sunset during his elective on Mijet Island.

The Editorial Board would like to thank the Universities of Auckland and Otago for their financial and academic support towards the journal. We would like to thank the Medical Assurance Society for their funding and the New Zealand Medical Journal for their guidance, as well as their financial support for the new Verrall Award. The winner of this year's Award will be decided from either our previous issue or this one, and will be announced later this year. We would like to acknowledge the NZMSA for their ongoing support, and our Advisory Board members for their advice and guidance. Finally, the authors would like to thank the Editorial and Commercial Boards and our reviewers, as they have worked hard behind the scenes to enable this issue to be published.

We hope NZMSJ readers will enjoy the variety of engaging articles that Issue 29 brings. 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.