

Welcome to the tenth issue of the New Zealand Medical Student Journal (NZMSJ). The NZMSJ aims to support medical student professional development, to be a forum for opinions and discussion and to publish the educational writing of medical students. We feel that this issue achieves these aims, and in addition will make thought-provoking reading, due to the wide range of articles that reflect the diversity of New Zealand medical students.

This issue continues our tradition of showcasing the many examples of student involvement in global health and social issues. Congratulations must go to James Heaton, the winner of the Features Writing Prize, for his article, "Lessons in Humility on the Thai border". In this article, James describes the time he spent at the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit in Thailand. It is inspiring to read about the insight that was gained during this medical student's overseas experience in a situation that contrasts sharply with anything to be found in New Zealand.

As well as bringing you several articles on health provision in other countries, we also like to keep it close to home. In this issue you will find a comprehensive review of the rectal examination – "More than assessment of the prostate gland". The PR exam is one area of medicine that most medical students feel hesitant about, and it is therefore important to gain full understanding of its function and importance.

The NZMSJ executive would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Professor Peter Joyce, the Dean of the Christchurch School Medicine, for his generous sponsorship of this issue's Dean's Academic Writing Prize. The worthy recipient of this prize is Caroline Ulrich for her original research article entitled, "Risk stratification in patients presenting with chest pain who are not initially diagnosed with an Acute Coronary Syndrome". We also wish to thank Associate Professor David Perez for his continued invaluable contribution to our academic review process in his role as Academic Advisor.

Thanks must also go to the Faculty of Medicine, University of Otago and the New Zealand Medical Association for their support of the NZMSJ through their sponsorship of the launch function of the 10th issue of NZMSJ.

We would like to congratulate all of the authors published in this issue. Your initiative and efforts are admirable. We look forward to receiving such high quality submissions in the future.

The NZMSJ Executive

The NZMSJ editorial board maintains that the articles published under the heading "opinion" are the personal views of the author and the NZMSJ does not support or endorse these views in any way but respects the author's rights to voice his/her opinions.

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