

New medical school and beyond

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Welcome to Issue 24 of the New Zealand Medical Student Journal (NZMSJ)! This issue delivers an array of excellent articles from students and clinicians. The focus is on primary health medicine, safety in training and student engagement.

The effective delivery of health care in New Zealand's community setting, with equitable outcomes, has long been a difficult endeavour. The recent proposal of the Waikato Medical School aims to address this, but the opinions on this matter are obscured by multiple media reports. In contrast, we offer our readers a unique opportunity to engage with the stakeholders directly implicated in the proposal. Featuring in this issue, three independent guest editors provide their opinion on the proposal and the state of primary health care in our nation:

- Professor Neil Quigley (Vice Chancellor, University of Waikato)
- Professor Peter Crampton (Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean, Otago Medical School, University of Otago)
- Dr Tim Malloy (General Practitioner and President, The Royal New Zealand College Of General Practitioners).

These editorials provide their view while keeping the current medical student community in mind. With the NZMSJ being a research journal free of political influence we do not take a stance on this proposal. Instead, our aim is to provide students with a medium to evaluate and formulate an opinion on a public health issue.

In 2015, a framework for medical student consent was developed and published, both in the New Zealand Medical Journal (NZMJ) and the NZMSJ. In this issue, The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) build on the importance of consent by presenting a recent New Zealand case. Surgery has followed an apprenticeship model, and this article logically takes the reader through the difficulties of obtaining consent for trainees and students and the issue of safety in surgical training.

As per tradition, this issue showcases the extent of medical student work in academia, writing and scholarship. Lauren Smith (Otago) set out to discover the effectiveness of various venodilation methods to improve patient selection for arteriovenous fistula surgery. Boris Yow (Auckland) presents a case of varicella in a peripartum woman with serological evidence of previous infection and subsequent neonatal infection. Case reports are a simple yet effective delivery of medical knowledge, and as a student can

offer valuable practice in academic writing. The NZMSJ encourages students to be proactive in selecting and submitting cases while on clinical rotations. Finally, Anna Perera (Auckland) extensively reviews the psychological factors involved in psoriasis management and discusses the efficacy of interventions.

To improve student engagement with the journal "how to" articles have been developed. It has direct relevance to the current student community as it aims to help students in their day to day lives as medical students. Carmen Chan (Auckland) has written an article for all students suggesting ideas on enjoying medical school. Dr Karyn Anderson offers insight into the medical elective and what considerations should be made when making this decision. This article is directed at senior students, however we encourage junior students to begin evaluating their choices. The reviews section in this issue encompasses several domains: documentary, course workshop and podcast. Husam Khalil (Auckland) reviews the documentary Cancer: the emperor of all maladies, Elwyn Rae (Auckland) reviews the recent surgical dexterity booster workshop delivered by the Waikato Cardiothoracic Surgery Unit and Joshua Smith (Otago) reviews the podcast Dr Aaron Rothstein's generalist medicine podcast.

On the journal front, we are pleased to have Dr Mel Lauti, Dr Mariam Parwaiz and Dr Ahmed Abdile who will sit on the newly formed NZMSJ Advisory Board. They will offer their experience and expertise as past Chief Editors. As mentioned in the Issue 22 Editorial, we will aim to further the journal in many areas and aim to keep the continuity of vision.

Finally, this issue would not be possible without the significant increase in financial and academic support from both the University of Otago and the University of Auckland who believe the journal is a necessary and worthwhile investment for medical students in New Zealand.

We hope you find lots of interesting material to read in Issue 24, which will further your love for medical literature and research. Our final congratulations to the authors who have published for their very first time and to our returning authors.

For more information about how to submit your work, see our website www.nzmsj.com/submission.