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Presidential Address

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Presidential Address

Dear Reader,

The world of medicine changes at a fast pace – new discoveries and advances are made every day, providing solutions to numerous health problems. Likewise, each advancement made seems to generate several new questions or challenges that need to be addressed. Keeping abreast of this capricious field is a daunting challenge – but one that the Meducator is prepared to face.

This issue, we bring the focus onto a number of matters that have developed out of our increasing knowledge of medicine and human health. Healthcare is a top priority for many Canadians, and the "public vs. private" debate continues, despite a serious misunderstanding of some of the core issues. Ran Ran has written an informative article to highlight and clarify these key issues. Finite healthcare resources are at the heart of Simone Liang's article also, as she discusses the ethics of denying treatment to individuals with self-destructive habits, such as smoking. Healthcare of the elderly is a pressing concern, and Deborah Kahan's article explains how the often unconsidered element of loneliness may exacerbate the risk of cardiovascular disease in this population. Kiran Bhuller explains the importance of chaperone proteins and the consequences of protein misfolding, such as Alzheimer's disease. Finally, Manan Shah contributes an overview of a signalling pathway in breast cancer, and explains how a drug initially designed to treat Alzheimer's disease may also be useful against breast cancer.

Aside from these informative articles, the Meducator provides other ways to access timely information about current developments in the world of medical research and health ethics. For example, you will find a number of items in the MedWire section – these MedWires are short, two to three sentence explanations designed to bring your attention to the health news that we found most interesting. MedWires are posted on our website every week. Also, you'll find several MedBulletins, which are expositions on new research and ethics topics, and go into some depth to explain the relevance of these topics to health. These are posted in locations across campus (i.e. MDCL, BSB etc.) and are updated on our website each week. I encourage you to regularly visit our website, read what you find interesting, or subscribe to our RSS feeds for automatic updates. Our website has recently been relaunched, and we look forward to your comments.

The Meducator is the product of many dedicated individuals, without whom it wouldn't be possible. I'd first like to thank Crystal Chung, for all her hard work, reliability, and support. Thanks to the VP Editors, for their impeccable editing work and consistent dedication: Harjot Atwal, Harman Chaudhry, Jacqueline Ho, Alexandra Perri, Jonathan Liu, Siddhi Mathur, Sarah Mullen, Navpreet Rana, and Jeannette So. Also thanks to Stephanie Low for putting the whole magazine together, and her team of layout staff, Ran Ran and Andrew Yuen, for preparing the images and making such a sharp cover. A sincere thanks to Avinash Ramsaroop for redesigning the website, and giving us the tools to reach more people. Lastly, I'd like to welcome our Junior Editors – Veronica Chan, Randall Lau, Simone Liang, and Fanyu Yang – and thank them for their enthusiasm and patience. The Meducator will be in your hands in years to come.

Please enjoy this issue, and send us an email if you have any comments. Remember to visit www.meducator.org for an online version and to receive all the latest updates.

Yours Truly,

Tyler Law
B.H.Sc. III

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