

Dear Reader,

As Obama strives to introduce affordable health care in the United States and swine flu gathers momentum in affecting our communities, public attention is once again focused on our health and the systems that support its maintenance. In times of change, it is the innovative minds and passionate persistence of researchers and critical thinkers that clear the way for advancement. Therefore, it is imperative that we explore novel ideas for future treatments while critically evaluating the value of current procedures and the realities of our health care system.



In this issue of the McMaster Meducator, we examine the sophisticated relationships within our own physiological systems while broadening our horizons by considering new possibilities in our health care system. Amjed Kadhim-Saleh invites us to take a detailed look into molecular interactions in his proposal to develop an unorthodox cocaine vaccine to address the vice of addiction through immunotherapy. Continuing on with the focus on our bodies, Keon Maleki draws our attention to the warning signs of excessive reliance on technology when diagnosing prostate cancer. On a larger scale, Karen Bilecki describes the merits of self-regulation of emergency pre-hospital care practitioners and introduces her original Canadian Paramedical Process Model and its relevance

to practice. Alyssa Cantarutti, our representative and co-chair of the Student Subcommittee in the newly established McMaster Health Forum, takes us on a tour of events designed to encourage dialogue between students, citizens and stakeholders on topics pertaining to our health system. The collection of articles in this offering of the Meducator captures the spirit of reinvention necessary in moving forward in light of the healthcare obstacles we encounter today.

This is my first issue as President, and I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone whose hard work eased my transition into my new role and whose collective effort helped make this issue possible. Without the hard work of the individuals in the executive team, the vision of the authors and the generous support of Dr. Del Harnish and the Bachelor of Health Sciences program, we would not have been able to produce such a high-calibre publication. Special thanks to Merry Wang for her artistic strengths in creating our intricately illustrated cover. Furthermore, I am honoured and excited to work with what has proved to be a stellar executive team. To Veronica Chan, thank you for your hard work and willingness to go over and above your role throughout this process. To the editorial team: Ahmad Al-Khatib, Alyssa Cantarutti, Randal Desouza, Randall Lau, Simone Liang, Siddhi Mathur, Navpreet Rana, Sangeeta Sutradhar, Fanyu Yang; your meticulous nature and stamina is integral to ensuring the content each article is accessible by our readers. Thank you to our creative director, Hiten Naik, for the countless hours spent looking at alignments that has given the Meducator such an aesthetically pleasing look. To our web master Keon Maleki, your efforts in maintaining our website, our portal to readers outside of McMaster, is greatly appreciated. Last but certainly not least, I would like to introduce our newest additions to the Meducator family: Mohsin Ali, Matthew MacDonald, Tahseen Rahman, Daniel Lee, Lebei Pi and Louis Winston. With new blood comes fresh perspectives, this ensures the continued growth of the Meducator. Everything done thus far has already contributed to the ongoing success of the McMaster Meducator. With such an excellent group of personalities and dedication, I look forward to working with you all in future publications to come.

Please visit our website, www.meducator.org, to check out our past issues, MedBulletins, find information on submitting articles and to drop us a line with any comments or inquiries. On behalf of all the writers and staff, we hope you enjoy your read.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Ho
B.H.Sc. IV

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