It had been more than ten years since Dalhousie medical students took home the top prize at the annual ‘For the Health of It’ (FTHOI) charity show. The drought ended this past November 27th when a group of 40 first and second year medical students took to the stage.

‘For the Health of It’ is an annual charity show during which students from eight health profession departments engage in friendly competition. This year marks the 30th anniversary of FTHOI and the event raised more than $24,000 for the Provincial Autism Centre.

Each participating department is tasked with creating a unique 10-minute skit that showcases the talents of each faculty, provides an educational message, and keeps the audience entertained. The performances took us down many paths. Highlights included a journey with Miss Frizzle on the ‘Magic School Bus’, from the school of Human Communication Disorders, where we explored the inner-workings of the ear; and ‘The Great Sperm Race’, the story of conception performed by our own medical students. While educational, the medical school skit incorporated hilarious jokes and choreographed interpretive dance routines.

The winning production was made possible by an exceptional coordinating committee of second year students: Patricia MacDonald, Erin MacDonald and Mallory Toner. Working towards FTHOI involved a great deal of student effort behind the scenes. Not only did each participating school need to put on a great show, fundraising for the charity of choice was a major component in the final scoring decision by the judges.

After everything was considered, the medical students were completely surprised to hear ‘Medicine’ declared top overall performance at the 2010 FTHOI event. All participating students felt proud to represent our department, and all the hard work that went into the performance paid off. Look out for 2011, when Dal Med hopes to shine again.