EDITORIAL

The Dalhousie Medical Journal - Future Trends

This marks the fourth year that the Dalhousie Medical Journal has been published since its revival in 1995 and the Journal continues to develop and expand. Recently, our distribution was extended to include all physicians in Prince Edward Island. This gives the DMJ circulation to all physicians in the Maritime provinces with the exception of non-Dalhousie faculty in the province of New Brunswick. We are attempting to expand the distribution to include the remainder of New Brunswick. We are also currently exploring the possibility of having the Journal listed on a number of search databases and the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda Maryland has been contacted regarding the criterion for inclusion on Medline®.

The DMJ editorial board also had the pleasure of a visit in the fall of 1998 from Dr. Frank Davidhoff, Editor-in-Chief of the Annals of Internal Medicine. He offered both insight and encouragement to the editorial board and indicated that future trends in medical publishing would include a greater emphasis on systematic reviews. Since our content is predominantly reviews, this of particular importance for the DMJ. The 2nd International Symposium on Systematic Reviews was held in January of 1999 in Oxford, England, and was attended by Brian Mahoney (Med IV) and Wil Smith (Med I). They have agreed to assist the DMJ editorial board in designing criterion to assist authors wishing to attempt a systematic review. We hope this will encourage authors to submit systematic reviews on appropriate topics for future editions of the DMJ.

Other major developments in the last year include the enhancement of the Dalhousie Medical Publication Office. This was a joint venture of the DMJ and the Dalhousie Medical Student Society which was started over a year ago. The yearbook room in the link was converted into multiuser publications office fully equipped with a G3 Macintosh system and an armament of software to produce the Journal. The publication office which is overseen by the Editor-in-Chief of the DMJ is currently shared with the DMSS handbook committee and the yearbook committees. We are currently raising funds to furnish the office completely and purchase essential items including a high quality scanner and printer over the summer. The publication office will also be available to students to do special projects requiring advanced graphics. For example, plans are being made to purchase computer programs to produce high quality posters for presentations at national or international meetings. The publication office is also currently the home of the National Palpater which is the official publication of the Canadian Federation of Medical Students. It is published seven times yearly and is distributed to approximately 5000 medical students studying in Canada. The co-editors of the the National Palpater this year are Todd Raine and Tara McCallan who are currently serving on the DMJ editorial board in the capacity of Design and Layout Team Leader and Associate Editor-Distribution respectively. Some minor constitutional amendments were made to the Journal including an expansion of the role of Associate Editor-Publicity to promote the DMJ on an international level as well as within Dalhousie. Additionally, several committees were struck to review the DMJ constitution and structure. One committee on the medical humanities will be developing a new set of standardized criterion to assist reviewers in evaluating manuscripts on the medical humanities. This was done in response to difficulties in reviewing humanities papers with criterion designed for basic and clinical science papers. The DMJ website has also been upgraded and will be sporting a number of new features including an interactive version of the Diagnostic Challenge and past cover art done by Verle Harrop. The last edition of the DMJ can be viewed there at our website address: http://www.mems.dal.ca/sdmss/dmj/dmj.htm.

The new DMJ editorial board was voted in on March 8th of 1999 and will consist of the following Associate Editors: Karim Mukhida (Reviews), Neil Isaac (Publication), Brian Le (Finance), Andrew McRae (Distribution), Derek Smith and Martin Dzierzanowski (Online Edition) and Satyendra Satyanarayana (Publicity and External Affairs). The new Editor-in-Chief will be Todd Raine who is currently entering his 3rd year of medical studies. They will take office on May 24th. I wish the new editorial board executive the best of luck for continued success of the Journal. It is with some sadness that I leave the the DMJ editorial board after four years, but I am confident that the new editorial board will produce a high-quality medical publication and continue to expand and improve all aspects of the Journal.

Brent Williams
Editor-in-Chief
May 1999
Patrons of the Dalhousie Medical Journal

Dr. David Anderson  
Dr. John Anderson  
Dr. Richard Barker  
Dr. Dorothy Barnard  
Dr. Tom Baskett  
Dr. R. Bortolussi  
Dr. Jane Brooks  
Dr. David and Susan Clarke  
Dr. R. L. Dobson  
Dr. Gordon Flowerdew  
Mrs. Babs Gold*  
Dr. Gillian Graves  
Dr. Jean Gray  
Dr. Micheal Gray  
Dr. Micheal Hebb  
Dr. Christopher Jamieson  
Dr. Nuala Kenny  
Dr. Kathleen Landymore  
Dr. Donald Langille  
Dr. R. LeBlanc  
Dr. G. Paul LeBrun  
Dr. Ross Leighton  
Dr. Karen Mann  
Dr. Vivian McAlister  
Dr. Ivar Mendez  
Dr. Holly Muir  
Dr. David Murphy  
Dr. T. J. Murray  
Dr. Herb Orlik  
Ms. Grace Patterson  
Mr. Alan Patterson  
Dr. David Ross  
Dr. Dora Stinson  
Dr. Robert Stone  
Dr. John Sullivan  
Dr. John Tallon  
Dr. Micheal West  
Division of Plastic Surgery  
Division of Urology

*Life-long sponsor of the Dalhousie Medical Journal

The Dalhousie Medical Journal Editorial Board also wishes to extend thanks to Halcraft Printing, the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association, the Kellogg Library, View-an-Ad, the Dalhousie Medical Students Society, Anne Weeden, Carl Stevens, Steven Morley, Verle Harrop and James Clarke.

"The advice, contacts, and support provided to me by the Life Sciences Industry Partnership team has been invaluable to the continued growth of Tartan Rehab."

The Life Sciences Industry Partnership (LSIP) –

Your First Contact for  
• Business advice  
• Partnering opportunities, and  
• Incubation facilities  
• Venture capital access.

Dr. Lee Kirby, MD, FRCP(C), Professor and Head, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Dalhousie University & President of Tartan Rehab Ltd

For more information please check our NEW website – www.lsip.ns.ca

or contact Jeanne Stapleton, Life Sciences Industry Partnership, Business Development Office, Ph. 424-8670, Ext. 304