

# DALHOUSE MEDICAL JOURNAL AT 75

Congratulations to the Dalhousie Medical Journal and to all the students and faculty that have made it a fine medical journal over the last 75 years.

The Journal was started with a serious intent by a very keen medical student group in 1936, led by Roy Gold, Chester Stewart, Henry Reardon and a number of others.

The medical classes in 1936 were very active, participating in all of the upper campus activities and sports, organizing medical student groups and attending educational nights and parties at the medical fraternities. They were also serious about their studies and gained notoriety in the local press for staging the first medical school protest against a course they thought out of date. It was also the year the medical students organized the Dalhousie Medical Journal and produced the first issue in November of that year.

It is interesting to see students on the masthead of the first issue as many would later be leaders in medicine. Editor Roy Gold became a prominent New York physician; the associate editor, Chester Stewart, became Dean of Medicine at Dalhousie; and, many of the others became leaders in their fields. Chester Stewart became editor after the first two issues of the Journal.

These students were clear about the need and importance of a medical student journal. It would allow them to publish and gain experience in the preparation of medical papers, add to medical knowledge, and to have a communication link with students, faculty and alumni of Dalhousie.

They published original papers by students and faculty, and they included opinion pieces, book reviews and personal notes about students and graduates. You could read about the history of the medical school, and of the medical student society and the medical fraternities, which were prominent at that time. There were reviews on new medical textbooks, original clinical papers and clinical reviews.

The journal also had news of students and graduates. It was interesting to read that "Ross Wright '33, doing postgraduate study on Eye, Ear Nose and Throat at the Montreal General hospital, was shot in the back by police as they pursued a burglar." He obviously recovered, as he was later in practice as a specialist in Fredericton.

Medical student journals at North American medical schools have had their ups and downs as well as transitions over the last 75 years. Most medical schools developed a journal in those early years but few have had a continuous history, including the Dalhousie Medical Journal, which ceased publication between 1969 and 1995. More recently some major journals such as the British Medical Journal and the Journal of the American Medical Association have produced medical student sections and also spin-off separate medical student journals under their masthead. And now we are seeing new medical student journals that are entirely on-line.

Like all medical journals, medical student journals suffer from the pressures of increasing cost and decreasing advertisements. Despite that, the need seen by the students in 1936 remain the same, and we sense that the support and enthusiasm of the Dalhousie students will insure that the future of the Dalhousie Medical Journal is bright.

The aims of those students in 1936 are the same aims today. It is important that we all do what we can to support the Dalhousie Medical Journal as it goes forward.

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