

EDITORS' MESSAGE

We are pleased to present the first issue of the Dalhousie Medical Journal for 2009. The journal continues to receive an eclectic mix of submissions. We look forward to increasing our submission numbers and expanding the scope of our readership in the upcoming year.

In keeping with our usual format, this issue is composed of a mix of science and humanities pieces. Our research section opens with a retrospective analysis of the incidence of diagnostic peritoneal lavage (DPL) utilization in the setting of abdominal trauma at Nova Scotia's sole tertiary trauma centre. DPL is taught as part of the Advanced Trauma Life Support course offered by the American College of Surgery. However, the study included here shows that DPL has become seldom used during Nova Scotia trauma cases and raises the question of whether current volume allows for adequate skills maintenance. We are also pleased to present a timely article written by two third year medical students that explores the role of the news media in communicating medical advances to the public and offers commentary with respect to how researchers and journalists can better work together to facilitate this interaction.

Humanities content for this issue begins with cover art that was provided by third year medical student Brett Vair. She originally composed the piece for *Sensation*, a Dalhousie Medical School art show exploring the theme of sensory loss. Brett provided a caption for the piece that is included below. We also feature a history article written by first year medical student Glen Patriquin, which explores a facet of 'obsolete' infectious disease history, and suggests students and physicians should be aware of treatments of the past to best manage problems of the present and future. Finally, we present an interesting short story written by second year medical student Heather Thompson, which both showcases her writing talent and explores how a young patient might deal with a terrible injury.

We have sincerely enjoyed taking part in reviewing submissions and compiling this issue. It is our hope that the journal continues to both encourage student research and writing, and offer an interesting read for health professionals of the Dalhousie community and beyond.

Stephen Smith¹ and Shane Journeay²

¹*Sr. Editor-in-Chief, DMJ*

²*Jr. Editor-in-Chief, DMJ*

Cover art by Brett Vair

Untitled

“Much of human communication is conveyed through facial expression rather than through words — through subtleties, like the creases that appear in the skin around a person's eyes when they are smiling, or the wrinkles that appear in one's forehead during moments of surprise.

Without vision, these insinuations are lost.”

"MCI takes care of everything without telling me how to run my practice."



**MCI means freedom:
I remain independent**

- No financial investment
- Flexible hours and 34 locations
- Appointments or walk-in
- Trained, professional staff

MCI has over 20 years of experience managing family medicine clinics in the Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver areas.

Toronto (416) 440.4040 x 433
 Calgary (403) 269.1440 x 26
 Vancouver (604) 323.1001
 practice@mcimed.com
 www.mcimed.com



MCI Medical Clinics Inc.

Toronto – Calgary – Vancouver

Works for Doctors • Cares for Patients • Empowers Employees

Congratulations Grads

on your accomplishment!

Northern British Columbia is a region graced with a diverse natural beauty found nowhere else on earth. At Northern Health, we are proud to be a state-of-the-art, integrated health care provider, caring for a population of over 300,000 across Northern British Columbia.

We warmly welcome new graduates in many areas, including **Psychiatry, General Anesthesia, Internal Medicine, Radiology, and Family Medicine.**

Come talk to us!

We invite you to consider a personal and professional adventure and to discover the benefits of a front-line healthcare practice in an extraordinary setting. We offer a progressive and consultative work culture as well as leading relocation assistance.

Start your life and your practice in Northern BC!

Please call **1.877.905.1155** or visit our website to find out all that our region and organization has to offer and how to make the most exciting move of your life.



northern health

It's more than a practice

...it's a lifestyle!

www.northernhealth.ca

Residents! Med Students!

Consider your future in Atlantic Canada.

A balanced life, competitive compensation, and unlimited opportunity.



MPRI

Maritime Physician
Recruitment Initiative

New Doctors. New Opportunities

To discover the opportunity that is right for you, contact:

Evie Sabeau Croucher

Coordinator

Maritime Physician Recruitment Initiative

460-5991 Spring Garden Road

Halifax, NS B3H 1Y6

Phone: 902.404.3596

Fax: 902.404.3599

Email: Evie@parimp.ca

www.mpri.ca

MPRI was designed by residents, for residents



River Valley Health A Great Place to Live, Work and Play.

River Valley Health is a multi-facility health care organization providing services in west-central New Brunswick.

We offer learning and practice opportunities in a collegial, supportive environment. You will enjoy safe, friendly rural and urban communities, proximity to all kinds of outdoor activities, a bilingual education system and the advantages offered by the province's five acclaimed universities.

We offer a broad teaching program throughout the region, and several practice opportunities, both rural and urban.

To learn more about career and learning opportunities at River Valley Health, please visit our website at www.rivervalleyhealth.nb.ca.

For more information, please contact:

Medical Staff Office

Telephone 506-452-5195

Email: recruitMD@rvh.nb.ca

