

EDITORS' MESSAGE

The arrival of a new academic year is always greeted with open arms here at the DMJ. We look forward to both welcoming a new class to the medical school and confronting the challenge ahead of us. Every year at Dalhousie Medical School is busy and we don't expect this year to deviate from the trend.

Significant changes are underway for Dalhousie Medical School. In May of 2008, New Brunswick's premier officially announced that the proposed Dalhousie medical education program in New Brunswick was approved. The Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Dr. Edward Doherty, subsequently announced that a site has been secured to deliver the program in Saint John, on the University of New Brunswick's Saint John campus. This will significantly affect those applying to medical school from New Brunswick as the overall number of medical school seats available for New Brunswick residents will increase from 20 to 30. The New Brunswick students will no longer study in Halifax, but will instead be attending medical school in Saint John. The anticipated starting date of the Dalhousie medical education program in New Brunswick is September of 2010. Nova Scotia's government has also recently announced preliminary plans to increase the availability of seats reserved for its residents by 10. Overall, the intent is to eventually admit 90 students into the Halifax-based program and 30 into the New Brunswick-based program, which would increase total first year enrolment to 120.

Although things are changing at Dalhousie Medical School, this issue of the DMJ follows our usual format. As

always, and not unlike the program at our school, we feature a blend of art and science. The image on our cover was created by first year medical students Chris Bebbington and Megan Gillis and displayed at *Sensation*, an art exhibit on sensory loss. The exhibit ran for over a month this spring and showcased pieces composed by Dalhousie Medical School students and staff. The scientific content for this issue was provided by first and second year medical students who composed review articles that examine a new potential therapy for Huntington's disease and sex differences in the incidence of tonsillitis. We have also included seven award winning abstracts, chosen from more than forty that were presented at the Dalhousie Undergraduate Health Sciences Student Research Day. A final two pieces of humanities content include a sample of poems written by a Dalhousie Medical School alumnus and an interesting article outlining an underrecognized Dalhousie link and Canadian contribution to the introduction of blood transfusion therapy in the First World War. We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we have enjoyed working on it.

Adrian Mendez¹ and Stephen Smith²

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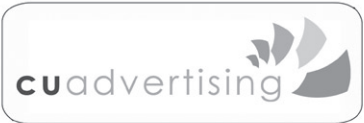


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