

The Dalhousie Medical Journal: A Report Card

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In the face of the new millenium, there has been a great call for change and re-evaluation of the way we do everything, from our personal lives to our work lives to the way our society functions. As the *Dalhousie Medical Journal* enters its 6th year since its reincarnation in 1995, I would like to do just the opposite and reaffirm the principles and goals of the *DMJ*.

Where we are...

The aims of the *Journal*, as enumerated by the editors in 1995 - Frank Hassard, Ratik Seth and Christopher Naugler - are as follows:

1. To provide an outlet for the dissemination of papers on the basic and clinical aspects of medicine, surgery, medical education, medicolegal affairs, healthcare delivery, the history of medicine, public health, and medical humanities.
2. To provide a forum for papers of special significance to the health of Atlantic Canadians.
3. To promote an interest in medical research amongst students, especially those in Atlantic Canada.
4. To provide individuals interested in the health sciences with the opportunity to become involved with the process of producing a scientific journal.

I believe that we have lived up to these aims so far. We need to keep these basic goals in mind as a strong foundation, even as we strive to change and improve the *Journal*. The *Journal* is run and produced by a dedicated team of students, and most of the papers published are authored by students. The quality of the papers we receive from students is excellent and we actively encourage all students to submit papers based on elective and other personal work.

We do not, however, exist in a vacuum. Dalhousie Medical Faculty, in both the basic and clinical sciences, are usually involved with submitted articles. As our teachers and preceptors I encourage you to become even more involved. Your support and encouragement of student research, and medical writing is invaluable. Challenge all your students to find topics that interest them, and to produce quality work. I also encourage all Faculty to submit their own work.

The *Journal* is distributed to every member of the Medical Society of Nova Scotia and the PEI Medical Society (a service of those societies, for which we thank them). In fact, those physicians represent our largest audience. I want to hear from all of you. Is the *Journal* a useful resource? Is there anything you would like to see? Perhaps you would like to submit some of your own work? The *Journal* is dedicated to the health of Atlantic Canadians - no one knows these issues like the practicing community physician.

We couldn't have done it without...

When the *Journal* was restarted in 1995, it was due to the hard work and perseverance of a group of medical students led by Frank Hassard. Like all ventures in today's world, the *Journal* needed money. Startup funding came in the form of an incredibly generous donation. Mrs. Babs Gold, wife of the original founder of the *Dalhousie Medical Journal*, Dr. I. Roy Gold, set up the *I. Roy Gold Endowment for Medical Journalism*. This endowment still provides much needed operating funds for the *Journal* on an annual basis. I would like to extend sincere thanks on behalf of the *Dalhousie Medical Journal* and everyone involved with it, in the past, present and future.

Running the *Journal* takes the editorial board into many areas in which we have little experience. Sometimes we need support and guidance as we try to navigate through these areas. The *Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association* has been, and continues to be, a spectacular resource for us, and many other student initiatives. Whether it is logistical support, financial assistance, promotion, or simply pointing us in the right direction, the *DMAA* never fails to come through when the *Journal* needs help. I would personally like to thank (and I believe I can speak for all recent editors) Executive Director, Dilly MacFarlane. Her help and work on behalf of the *Journal* has made my job much easier and more enjoyable.

The *Journal* is financially independent, our operating costs being covered by advertising revenue. This money pays for the printing costs, but very little else. Most of the cost of distributing the *Journal* is covered by the *Medical Society of Nova Scotia* and the *PEI Medical Society*. The *Journal* simply could not function without their support.

The support we receive from our Patrons (see list on page 6) has allowed us to purchase a computer design station, and to begin to outfit the new Dalhousie Medical Student Publication Office. The development of the *Journal* over the last five years would not have been possible without the financial assistance provided by these people.

Where we are going...

The *Journal* is in the midst of two large projects: a comprehensive redesign of the *Journal*, and a joint project with the *Dalhousie Medical Students' Society - the Dalhousie Medical Student Publication Society (DMSPS)*.

Beginning in the fall, I started discussions with a senior design class at NSCAD, taught by Professor Frank Fox. In the spirit of maintaining student involvement and interdisciplinary cooperation, I offered them the opportunity to redesign the *Journal*. The NSCAD students recently presented their design ideas, and I am very excited by the preliminary results. Plans are in place to continue our consultation, with the goal of publishing a newly designed

Journal by next fall, so keep your eyes open.

The *DMSPS* has the responsibility of equipping and maintaining the new Publication Office (to be used by the *Journal*, the *DMSS* Student Handbook, the yearbooks, and any other student projects that require publication assistance). This will involve providing furniture, phone/fax/internet service, computer design stations, educational material and opportunities, and general office supplies and support. It has already received financial support from the *Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation*, the *Medical Society of Nova Scotia*, and the *DMAA*. This money will allow for basic equipment and services and provide an operating budget for 1-2 years. Continuing support will be required to maintain the office and expand services.

As the *Journal* enters its 6th year the editors and members have many challenges ahead. I am excited at the opportunities we have before us, and look forward to meeting the challenges. I can only hope that the next five years are as successful as the past five.



THE
DALHOUSIE
MEDICAL
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Check out
Who We Are
&
What We Do

www.medicine.dal.ca/dmaa

And while you're at it:

- *Find information concerning your upcoming reunion and register online
- *Let us know of any address changes or exciting news with our online forms
- *Check out the latest exhibit by Dalhousie Medical Students on our Artists-In-Medicine page
- *Take a walk through campus with our Virtual Walking Tour
- *View the current and past recipients of the Alumnus of the Year and Honourary President. While you're there nominate a classmate online
- *Our links page will guide you to many other aspects of Dalhousie Medical School including the Kellogg Library, Music-In-Medicine, the Medical History Museum of Nova Scotia, the Dalhousie Medical Students Society, and Class Sites

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