

INVITATION TO AUTHORS

The Dalhousie Medical Journal will consider English-language abstracts and manuscripts dealing with any aspect of medicine including basic science, clinical medicine, surgery, medical education, medicolegal affairs, medical humanities, and public health. Non-health professionals conducting medically-related research are encouraged to submit their work.

The journal will also consider for publication visual art or creative writing pieces, for which there are no specific criteria, but which are more likely to be accepted if relevant to health or medical sciences.

Please see ojs.library.dal.ca/DMJ for detailed manuscript requirements.
If you have any questions get in touch at dmj@dal.ca

We look forward to hearing from you.
The DMJ Team

Cover art: An Exploration of Patient Perspectives of COPD Through Art By: Justin White & Lynne Cann

In 2012, over 28 000 Nova Scotians were living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Healthcare providers frequently encounter COPD, as it is a chronic, progressive condition, which impacts patients in many ways. COPD is associated with smoking and treatment may require changes in appearance through the use of an oxygen tank. Such stigma often impacts the way medical professionals interact with COPD patients.

Patients with COPD need not be defined merely through a “medical lens”. Medicine continues to shift towards patient-centered care, which focuses on individual patients’ perspectives, rather than focusing only on the disease. However, some studies demonstrate that qualities such as empathy and patient-centeredness decline as students progress throughout medical school. Self-reflection has been identified as an important strategy to combat this decline. Self-reflection increases self-awareness and professional expertise in both the clinical and humanistic realms. Self-reflection and the promotion of patient-centeredness can take a variety of forms including artistic expression and interpretation.

The cover art is one of two pieces constructed by Dalhousie medical students using patient perspectives found through online COPD blogs and a support group.