

## Welcome from the Co-Editors-in-Chief

We are so pleased to welcome readers to the inaugural issue of the *Healthy Populations Journal* (HPJ). The HPJ is a new student-run open-access journal out of Dalhousie University that provides a space to highlight student-led population health research. The journal was born out of a strong desire to continue to support student health research despite the COVID-19 pandemic requiring the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 annual student-led *Crossroads Interdisciplinary Health Research Conference* hosted by Dalhousie University. While we acknowledge that COVID-19 has led to significant disruptions to research, we wanted to provide this space for students to share and publish research as well as original commentaries, visual artworks, and poetry that are related to population health and/or health equity. We hope this journal can circumvent some pandemic-related interruptions and increase graduate student involvement in academic publishing.

Part of our vision for HPJ is to feature diverse and intersectional forms of knowledge expression and approaches and we encourage the submission of artistic works. Our cover features sculpture work by PhD trainee Lynette Peters. The articles by Stone et al. and Stirling Cameron and Jefferies feature original artwork by master's student Emma Stirling Cameron. This issue also features a poem by Master's student Lindsay Dorder. While artistic works are a little non-traditional in academic publishing, we felt it was important to offer students a space use their artistic talents to enhance knowledge translation and dissemination of health research.

Articles in this issue cover timely and important topics and would be interest to a variety of readers. Joshi and Stone discuss the importance of play for children during the pandemic while Caldwell reflects on her time working the Covid-19 hotline. Tomas describes the role of leisure in shaping identity among immigrant students in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Ajadi and Rodgers assess the representation of people of African descent on community health boards in Nova Scotia. Stirling Cameron and Jefferies release a call to action on anti-black racism in the Canadian education system. Jefferies and Price offer a scholarly narrative on African Nova Scotian nursing leadership. Stone et al. discuss gender and racial inequities in relation to climate change. Nashnoush and Sheikh offer a philosophical approach to the morality of suicide. Cassidy et al. provides recommendations on improving the pediatric to adult care transition experience based on findings from young adults with complex care needs while Kelly et al. discuss the development and implementation of a Facebook-based peer-to-peer support group for caregivers of children with complex care needs in New Brunswick.

The HPJ would not be possible without support from the Healthy Populations Institute at Dalhousie University, and especially the hard work of our managing editor and co-founder, Sara Brushett. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the editorial board for their commitment to creating a journal based on [our guiding principles and competencies](#). Further, we are grateful to our peer reviewers for offering their time, expertise, and constructive revisions. And finally, thank you to all of the authors that submitted articles and artwork to HPJ. We recommend readers consider submitting their work to HPJ for future issues.

We sincerely hope you enjoy reading this issue.



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