

The Evolution of the *Dalhousie Medical Journal*

It has been three years since the *Dalhousie Medical Journal* was revived by Frank Hassard, Ratika Seth and Christopher Naugler. Since that time there have been a number of changes to the structure of the *DMJ* editorial board. In the Fall of 1997, several new positions were added to the Editorial Board including Associate Editor-Design and Layout and External Associate Editor-Reviews. The external reviewer positions have expanded the scope of the peer review process to include medical and graduate students from around Canada and the United States. In addition, the Faculty Review Board was created to facilitate expert peer review of articles submitted to the *DMJ*. Dr. David Drover, a Dalhousie Medical Alumnus, and currently associated with the Department of Anesthesia at Stanford University was appointed as an External Faculty Review Board Member in the fall.

In the Spring of 1998 it was felt that a dramatically different student Editorial Board structure was required to facilitate the smooth operation of the *DMJ*. Therefore, a new constitution was drafted and ratified in the Spring of 1998 which defined a new structure for the *DMJ* Editorial Board. Up to this point the leadership of the *DMJ* had been divided between three Co-Editors-in-Chief with a large number of reviewers and design and layout editors. The division of labour with this structure was inefficient and required a change to ensure the continuity of the Journal. The new editorial board structure will have one Editor-in-Chief with six Associate Editors, each with defined tasks. The Associate Editor positions will be: Publication, Reviews, Distribution, Online Edition, Publicity and Finances. There will also be a variable number of content editors and design and layout editors. It is hoped that this new structure will facilitate the smooth running of the Journal in future years.

The primary goal of the *DMJ* is to be a "medical science journal dedicated to the health of Atlantic Canadians". The new constitution reaffirmed the objectives of the journal which are aimed at achieving this primary goal. The first objective of the *DMJ* is to provide an outlet for the dissemination of papers on the basic and clinical aspects of medicine, medical education, health care delivery, the history of medicine, and articles concerned with the humane aspects of medicine. In this edition of the *DMJ* we have chosen to focus on the medical humanities- an often overlooked area of medicine.

The second objective of the *DMJ* is to provide a forum for articles of special significance to Atlantic Canada. In this edition we have a review by Adam Baker on the neurosurgical treatment of Parkinson's Disease using neural cell transplantation, which is being pioneered by Dr. Ivar Mendez at Dalhousie. In addition, the article by Darren Costain examines the biological role of eosinophils and the implications for cancer immunotherapy. This is based on ongoing research at Dalhousie's Cancer Immunotherapy Research Laboratory.

Many students' first research publications have appeared in the *DMJ* which facilitates the third objective of the *DMJ*: promoting an interest in medical research amongst students in Atlantic Canada. The fourth objective is to provide individuals interested in the health sciences with the opportunity to become involved in the process of producing a scientific journal. Although the process of producing a medical journal can be a long and arduous task, there is considerable educational value in each aspect of producing the Journal from the peer review process to the actual design and layout. We have also expanded potential membership on the *DMJ* Editorial Board to include graduate students enrolled in a medically related MSc or PhD program in addition to medical students. It was felt that this would further strengthen the *DMJ* Editorial Board by providing diversity and improving ties to the basic sciences.

A new objective added to the constitution was for the *DMJ* to serve as an international forum for high quality student research. Although articles in the *DMJ* have primarily been from local authors, it was felt that the *DMJ* would be strengthened by submissions from outside of Canada. In this issue we have a review article on immunological aspects of HIV infection by Trevor Burt who is a medical student currently studying at Harvard Medical School. In the future we hope to receive additional submissions from abroad.

The new *DMJ* Editorial Board for 1998/99 was voted in on May 25/98 and will consist of the following Associate Editors: Costa Apostolides (Reviews), Derek Smith (Publication), Karim Mukhida (Finance), Martin Dzierzanowski (Online Edition), Tara McCallan (Distribution) and Pratima Devichand (Publicity). I will assume the position of Editor-in-Chief for 1998/99 with the view to continuing to improve the quality and scope of the *DMJ*.

Brent Williams

Co-Editor-in-Chief, Reviews and Publication
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