

The *Dalhousie Medical Journal* - Future Trends

This marks the fourth year that the *Dalhousie Medical Journal* has been published since its revival in 1995 and the Journal continues to develop and expand. Recently, our distribution was extended to include all physicians in Prince Edward Island. This gives the *DMJ* circulation to all physicians in the Maritime provinces with the exception of non-Dalhousie faculty in the province of New Brunswick. We are attempting to expand the distribution to include the remainder of New Brunswick. We are also currently exploring the possibility of having the Journal listed on a number of search databases and the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda Maryland has been contacted regarding the criterion for inclusion on Medline®.

The *DMJ* editorial board also had the pleasure of a visit in the fall of 1998 from Dr. Frank Davidhoff, Editor-in-Chief of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. He offered both insight and encouragement to the editorial board and indicated that future trends in medical publishing would include a greater emphasis on systematic reviews. Since our content is predominantly reviews, this of particular importance for the *DMJ*. The 2nd International Symposium on Systematic Reviews was held in January of 1999 in Oxford, England, and was attended by Brian Mahoney (Med IV) and Wil Smith (Med I). They have agreed to assist the *DMJ* editorial board in designing criterion to assist authors wishing to attempt a systematic review. We hope this will encourage authors to submit systematic reviews on appropriate topics for future editions of the *DMJ*.

Other major developments in the last year include the enhancement of the Dalhousie Medical Publication Office. This was a joint venture of the *DMJ* and the Dalhousie Medical Student Society which was started over a year ago. The yearbook room in the link was converted into multiuser publications office fully equipped with a G3 Macintosh system and an armament of software to produce the Journal. The publication office which is overseen by the Editor-in-Chief of the *DMJ* is currently shared with the DMSS handbook committee and the yearbook committees. We are currently raising funds to furnish the office completely and purchase essential items including a high quality scanner and printer over the summer. The publication office will also be available to students to do special projects requiring advanced graphics. For example, plans are being made to purchase computer programs to produce high quality posters for presentations at national or international meetings. The publication office is also currently the home of the *National Palpater* which is the official publication of the Canadian Federation of Medical Students. It is published seven times yearly and is distributed to approximately 5000 medical students studying in Canada. The co-editors of the the *National Palpater* this year are Todd Raine and Tara McCallan who are currently serving on the *DMJ* editorial board in the capacity of Design and Layout Team Leader and Associate Editor-Distribution respectively.

Some minor constitutional amendments were made to

the Journal including an expansion of the role of Associate Editor-Publicity to promote the *DMJ* on an international level as well as within Dalhousie. Additionally, several committees were struck to review the *DMJ* constitution and structure. One committee on the medical humanities will be developing a new set of standardized criterion to assist reviewers in evaluating manuscripts on the medical humanities. This was done in response to difficulties in reviewing humanities papers with criterion designed for basic and clinical science papers. The *DMJ* website has also been upgraded and will be sporting a number of new features including an interactive version of the Diagnostic Challenge and past cover art done by Verle Harrop. The last edition of the *DMJ* can be viewed there at our website address: <http://www.mcms.dal.ca/sdmss/dmj/dmj.htm>.

The new *DMJ* editorial board was voted in on March 8th of 1999 and will consist of the following Associate Editors: Karim Mukhida (Reviews), Neil Isaac (Publication), Brian Le (Finance), Andrew McRae (Distribution), Derek Smith and Martin Dzierzanowski (Online Edition) and Satyendra Satyanarayana (Publicity and External Affairs). The new Editor-in-Chief will be Todd Raine who is currently entering his 3rd year of medical studies. They will take office on May 24th. I wish the new editorial board executive the best of luck for continued success of the Journal. It is with some sadness that I leave the the *DMJ* editorial board after four years, but I am confident that the new editorial board will produce a high-quality medical publication and continue to expand and improve all aspects of the Journal.

Brent Williams
Editor-in-Chief
May 1999