

Hockey is something that most Canadians can identify with. Just as this issue of the DMJ is about to roll off the presses, the National Hockey League has conceded that the hockey season is over before it has begun. Nationwide, fans are disappointed to hear that the inevitable is now official - the Stanley Cup will not be awarded this year, for the first time since 1919 when the finals were prevented from going ahead by a circumstance of seemingly greater consequence – the Spanish flu pandemic. What is it about hockey that captures the attention of so many Canadians? There are many winter sports, but none other is so utterly Canadian. Something about the tradition of the glinting Stanley Cup and the Hockey Night in Canada jingle elicits a feeling of exhilaration in many of us. It is clear that, perhaps as much as the sport itself, the tradition of hockey in Canada provides a basis for our intense love of the game.

In the same vein, it is with pride that we announce an important milestone in the life of the Dalhousie Medical Journal (DMJ). The first issue of the DMJ was published by the medical students of Dalhousie University in 1957. Following the production of Issue 22, the journal ceased to exist for some years for financial reasons.

Despite its precarious financial situation, the tradition of the DMJ was renewed when a much delayed Issue 23 was published in November of 1995. The DMJ has been a semiannual publication since, and this academic term marks the 10th anniversary of the re-emergence of the journal.

In honour of this milestone, the DMJ executive have come together to establish a number of new strategies to improve the quality of the publication. In making changes, we hope to reinforce the traditional role of the journal as an opportunity for medical students to publish their work. We also hope to provide an even better forum for the development of student research and involvement in medical literature.

Of note, this year we created a new online edition of the journal located at [www.eDMJ.ca](http://www.eDMJ.ca). This improved web version of the DMJ contains links to previous issues of the journal as well as a number of other features. These include a forum for discussion of issues relevant to medical students and medicine in Canada. Suggested topics of discussion will be posted, although comments about any aspect of health in Canada will be welcomed. All are encouraged to participate in this forum.

The DMJ is committed to a broad approach to medical literature which celebrates the diversity of medicine. As such, this issue incorporates articles relevant to a variety of disciplines. Clinical topics include psychiatry and general surgery, while basic science, public health, and political and economic influences on Canada's health care system are also addressed. Finally, as a tribute to the emphasis on the humanities in medicine at Dalhousie Medical School, a selection of poetry has been included. We hope you enjoy the read.

Thank you for your support.

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DMJ Editors