

# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Throughout medical school, one thing remains ubiquitously on the mind of each medical student: the Canadian Resident Matching Service, or simply put, CaRMS. Although we plan and toil to varying degrees, it is most certainly a consideration for everyone, and rightfully so. After all, it will determine what we will be doing for 2 or more years, and where we will be continuing our medical education.

Generally, for a candidate to successfully match to his or her program of choice, the CanMEDS core competencies should be demonstrated to the powers that be. Residency programs vary across the country, so there are innumerable profiles for a successful candidate. The idea is to find your own, and apply it to the program(s) you desire. Whether a student's potential is conveyed through their brilliantly written personal letter, academic track record, eloquent interviewing style, or a collection of these and other attributes, it must be convincing.

I should note that, as someone who has not suffered through it, I know precious little about the CaRMS match. But that will not prevent me from shamelessly writing about it, and even plugging the role that research can play in one's application. Indeed, one of the CanMEDS core competencies is *Scholar*, and I believe it in particular deserves the attention of medical students. There are many reasons to participate in research. Perhaps selfishly, I am trying to appeal to students' fear of going unmatched.

A group from McGill noted a waning interest in research.<sup>1</sup> More than ever, students entering the pediatric surgery match (n.b., cannot enter directly out of medical school, but relevant nonetheless) had no research on their application. Was it no longer important or helpful to applicants? Or is there simply less interest in pursuing research? Refusing to believe the latter, they set out to evaluate the former. They found that publications were few, but **more publications were associated with a better match.**

Why dedicate the few paragraphs I have to this topic? Why not use the space to write about something controversial in the medical world, or maybe militantly introduce this issue? The reason is, the Dalhousie Medical Journal would like more input from its students and faculty alike. We would like you to send us your summer research, your side projects, and even your Professional Competencies papers. We are a resource for the medical students, and we are working to raise awareness, increase readership, and solicit input. Whether you would like to complain about my rambling editorials, or send in the research paper you have not gotten around to submitting, you can do it now at [dmj@dal.ca](mailto:dmj@dal.ca)

Sincerely,  
Joey Corkum  
*Editor-in-Chief*  
*Class of 2014*

PS. Enjoy the issue.

## References

1. Success in the Pediatric Surgery Match: a survey of the 2010 applicant pool. *Journal of pediatric surgery* 46.5 (2011):957-961.