

EDITORIAL

Editors' welcome

Lorna Pairman, Angad S Chauhan

Welcome to Issue 38 of the New Zealand Medical Student Journal (NZMSJ), Te Hautaka o nga Akonga Rongoa. This special issue celebrates 20 years of NZMSJ publication, making us one of the longest-running medical student journals internationally. The ethos of the journal twenty years ago was:

1. To support medical students' professional development
2. To be a forum for opinions and discussion
3. To publish the education writing of medical students

Twenty years on, the editorial board boasts a more robust structure, and the format of the journal stands more formalised. The journal now focuses on publishing academic articles, with the NZMSJ blog established during the COVID-19 pandemic for publication of non-academic articles. The introduction of various events has also increased the profile of the journal, including collaboration with the New Zealand Medical Student Association (NZMSA) to organise the Student Research Forum and the introduction of the annual Verrall Award. Despite these changes, this ethos continues to reflect the purpose and aims of our journal. We aim to continue to support medical student research by publishing open access and free of charge, ensuring publication remains accessible to all medical students.

Overview of articles in Issue 38

In keeping with the special 20-year anniversary theme, this issue features invited editorials from clinicians Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Dr Ibrahim Al-Busaidi, Prof Frank Frizelle, and Dr Yassar Alamri. These four clinicians have had significant involvement and impact in fostering medical student engagement in research and publication within Aotearoa New Zealand.

In her invited editorial article, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall (NZMSJ's first Editor-in-Chief) discusses the original inspiration for developing the journal and reflects on her journey through medical school, clinical training, and her work in New Zealand parliament. Dr Ibrahim Al-Busaidi has numerous publications on the topic of medical student research and the impact that academic publication during medical school has on students' career trajectories. In his article, he argues that there is significant value in publishing in a medical student journal, outlines the benefits of early research participation, and highlights ways to continue improving the reach of NZMSJ. Prof Frank Frizelle is the current Editor-in-Chief of the New Zealand Medical Journal and the kind sponsor of the Verrall Award. He, together with Prof Roger Mulder, lists five reasons why medical students should engage with medical journal publishing. Dr Yassar Alamri has completed several research projects in the field of medical education and looked at the role that research involvement plays in medical student learning. His research career started with publication in the NZMSJ in 2009 (Issue 9), and since then, he has published over 100 articles. His editorial provides insight into the sustainability of medical student journals and ways to improve the visibility of journal content.

There is a strong focus on original research articles in this issue on a broad range of topics that will appeal to all audiences. Several authors are recent MBChB graduates, having submitted to the NZMSJ during their final year of medical school. University of Otago MBChB graduate Dr Neakiry Kivi together with Prof Louise Reiche describe the prevalence of stucco keratosis in a private dermatology clinic and highlight it as a common yet often unrecognised skin lesion. Dr Faziah Nasim, also a University of Otago MBChB graduate together with Dr Mythili Jayasundaram, and A/Prof Frederick Sundram, utilise a published methodology for understanding the scope of consultation-liaison psychiatry referrals in a New Zealand hospital. Dr Analise Wang, another recent University of Otago MBChB graduate, has completed an audit on paediatric ventilation tube surgery wait times, whilst Dr Selin Jamil, together with Dr Amirreza Asl, Dr Badiozaman Hosseinpour, and Prof Nimet Lülec, have assessed physicians' knowledge of radiation dose levels during routine radiological examinations. In keeping with the theme of the issue, Lorna Pairman and Dr Angad Chauhan publish a descriptive study on the characteristics of academic articles published in a medical student journal. Finally, Gabrielle Ou publishes her prize-winning essay on the health burden of unhealthy homes in New Zealand for which she won the 2024 University of Auckland MBChB Year Five Population Health Prize.

We also have the pleasure of publishing an article on the topic of 'sampling weights in health-related surveys' in our ongoing Statistics Primer series thanks to the generous support of Dr Ari Samaranyaka, Professor Robin Turner, and A/Prof Claire Cameron from the University of Otago Statistics Department. Finally, we publish the NZMSA President's report by recent graduate Dr Indira Fernando who is the outgoing NZMSA president for 2024.

Acknowledgements and concluding remarks

We would like to acknowledge the hard work of the 2024 NZMSJ committee whose members are listed on the previous page. We are also grateful to the ongoing financial support from the University of Otago and the University of Auckland, as well as from the Medical Assurance Society, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and Specialty Trainees of New Zealand. Thank you to Professor Frizelle for his continual sponsorship of the Verrall Award: the winner of this award for 2024 will be announced shortly. We would also like to thank our NZMSJ advisory board members for their support of the NZMSJ, as well as our expert reviewers and our student peer reviewers for their contribution to ensuring all articles are of rigorous academic quality (listed on the previous page).

We hope you find the editorials, academic articles, and feature articles of this special issue insightful. The theme for our next issue will be 'Big Data and Digital Health', and we encourage you to submit your research work to the NZMSJ.