

EDITORIAL

Editors' welcome

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Introduction

Tēnā koutou katoa and welcome to Issue 34 of Te Hautaka o ngā Akongā Rongoā, the New Zealand Medical Student Journal (NZMSJ). The theme of this issue is "Global Health," which is an important topic for medical students and health professionals. It is our privilege to share with our readers a wide range of insightful and high-quality articles by health care professional students, clinicians, and academics from Aotearoa and abroad.

Global health has been thrust into the spotlight by the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, but it has long been a focus of international collaboration. The United Nations published its sustainable development goals (SDGs) in 2012 and included its third goal: to "ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages."¹ The wording of this SDG reflects the changing perspective of global health as an entity. Inequity is now recognised as the fundamental obstacle that must be overcome in pursuing health and wellbeing for all. Inequity takes many different forms, including a lack of access to health care and the continuing disparities in representing certain groups in research and decision-making.^{2,3} In this complex health landscape, at the crossroads of geopolitical, socioeconomic, and biophysical influences, it can be challenging to know where we fit in as medical students and clinicians with a passion for global health. The scale of the task at hand can also be overwhelming, especially for those just beginning their journey.

We believe current and future health care professionals in Aotearoa have a vital role in our collective global health. Through education and sustainable changes, the ambitious goals that we see can become achievable. We hope that this issue of the NZMSJ will highlight the stories of people who have found diverse opportunities in global health and inspire a new generation of health professionals to contribute to this critical work.

A brief overview of articles within this issue

This issue showcases fantastic editorials from two experienced clinician-researchers in New Zealand who share their journeys and delve into different facets of global health. Professor Philip Hill, the McAuley Professor of International Health at the University of Otago and the founding Director of the Centre for International Health, advocates for global health teaching in the medical curriculum and proposes opportunities to create a better starting point for this in Aotearoa. Professor Hill also explores the need for collaborative global health research to share learning and empower those most affected by health problems to create change. In our second editorial, we hear from Dr Avinash Sharma, a general surgeon and former Global Cancer Disparities and Surgical Oncology Fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Dr Sharma recounts his experiences working as a surgeon to provide necessary surgical care to communities in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr Sharma also discusses

the inequity of access to health care around the world and the need for change at a grassroots level to sustainably address upstream determinants of health. These editorials provide essential learnings for medical students to look at global health from different angles, taking both clinical- and public health-level approaches to its challenges and opportunities. We are very grateful to Professor Hill and Dr Sharma for their inspiring contributions.

This issue includes many excellent academic articles covering a broad spectrum of thought-provoking topics. Alexander Wellington presents a review article about chronic myeloid leukaemia and highlights the genetics and recent advancements in treating this disease. Dr Roy Spires reviews the current literature on managing mid-shaft clavicle fractures and the outcomes of both surgical and nonsurgical management. In an intriguing case report, Dr Avroneel Ghosh discusses the pathogenesis of drug-induced aseptic meningitis and predisposing factors. Anneke Tomkins *et al.* look at the association between the mRNA COVID-19 vaccination and myocarditis. We are pleased to share a selection of the 2021 Bachelor of Medical Sciences with Honours abstracts from both the University of Auckland and the University of Otago. We also welcome academic essays from the two winners of the 2021 Wilson-Allison Memorial Prize in Dermatology, Neakiry Kivi from the University of Otago and Thomas Swinburn from the University of Auckland, who both propose novel and compelling solutions to the problem of scabies in New Zealand and the Pacific area.

We are delighted to be continuing our three highly engaging article series in this issue. The "Clinical Pearl" series returns with another fascinating case. Dr Chelsea Heaven, Dr Teresa Holm, Dr Jamie-Lee Rahiri, and Mr Mark Sanders present a case of amoxicillin clavulanate induced liver injury. They discuss the need for awareness of the adverse effects that may result from such a commonly prescribed medication. The "Māori Health Review" in this issue, authored by Quintin Smith and Dr Tyler Stevens, focuses on the Well Child Tamariki Ora review of Oranga Tamariki and the recommendations to redesign the programme to create a more whānau-centred approach. The authors discuss the implications of this review to reduce inequities and its relevance to all current and future clinicians. Finally, our "Statistics Primer" feature, written by Andrew Gray, Dr Claire Cameron, Dr Ari Samaranayaka, and Associate Professor Robin Turner from the University of Otago, tackles the very relevant topic of which statistics software is best to use. We are excited to share these articles with our readers.

Acknowledgements and concluding remarks

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DermNet for their generous funding of the NZMSJ. Our sincere thanks to Catherine's Creations and Medisave for sponsoring the prizes for our monthly Researcher Spotlight initiative, and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) for their continuing sponsorship of our annual RANZCOG Blog Post Award for the best student-authored blog post published on our NZMSJ Blog each year. We would also like to thank Professor Frank Frizelle for his generous financial support of the Verrall Award, which will be awarded to the best academic article published in the NZMSJ this year. Our 2021 Verrall Award winner was Natasha Mitchell, who published original research in Issue 33 on the use of smartphone applications for the monitoring of inflammatory bowel disease symptoms. As always, we would like to acknowledge our New Zealand Medical Students' Association colleagues for their ongoing support and our Advisory Board members who continue to support the NZMSJ and share their immense wisdom and experience. Finally, the authors would like to thank the Editorial and Commercial boards, the expert reviewers, and the student peer reviewers for their tireless commitment to getting this issue to publication.

We hope NZMSJ readers will enjoy the array of thought-provoking articles included in Issue 34. We would like to congratulate all the authors who have contributed to this issue and encourage our readers to submit their work to the NZMSJ in the future.

"The essence of global health equity is the idea that something so precious as health might be viewed as a right." – Dr Paul Farmer.

References

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