

## TOWARDS THE FUTURE: THE CONTINUING EVOLUTION OF THE MJM

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Volume 3, Number 1 of the *McGill Journal of Medicine (MJM)*. As the Journal continues to grow from its infancy, I am honored to have been chosen to continue the tradition of excellence established by its previous two Editors-in-Chief.

International recognition of the Journal continues to grow with each issue and has recently been heightened by a very positive review of the *MJM* in one of the most respected medical publications in the world, the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Since publication of the review, requests for information on submitting articles and for subscriptions have come in from Australia, Israel, Bulgaria, and many other countries.

When Dr. Jerome Kassierer, the Editor-in-Chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, was in Montreal earlier in the year, he extended an invitation to the *MJM* staff to visit the offices of the *NEJM* in Boston. This was an excellent opportunity for the editors of the *MJM* to benefit from a behind-the-scenes look at a journal which has served as a role model for us in many ways. It was reassuring to see that the *MJM* shares many similar concerns with the *NEJM*, from editorial policy issues to the manuscript review process to the online medical journal. With time, we hope that the *MJM* can achieve the same familiarity among medical students that the *NEJM* enjoys with researchers around the globe.

While at the offices of the *NEJM*, I thought to myself that in time, I would not be surprised to see many of the *MJM* editors to go on to careers involving significant editorial contributions to medical and scientific publication. Previous Editors-in-Chief have written of the valuable service we provide to young authors, in helping them to improve their writing and research skills. In addition to this, we are also training our editors to develop the skills to critically analyze manuscripts for their scientific integrity and clarity of presentation, an invaluable tool for all future clinicians and researchers.

A recent important advancement in our mandate to represent international student medical research is the founding of a relationship with the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA). On page 2, IFMSA President Luisa Brumana outlines the roles of this active organization. Through the reciprocal dissemination of information of interest to medical students around the globe we have embarked upon what promises to be a long and mutually beneficial collaboration between the IFMSA and *MJM*.

The current issue of the *MJM* continues to promote diverse areas of interest in medical research. Our original articles provide important new information and represent unique contributions to their fields. The first article addresses the effects of birth associated anoxia on the neurochemical development of the rat brain, with this study supporting the hypothesis that events in early development can have lasting consequences in the adult animal. This is followed by investigations into the capacity of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> to inhibit progression of hypercholesterolemia and atherosclerosis in rabbits fed a high cholesterol diet. This study introduces for the first time a potentially very important finding in the ongoing battle against atherosclerosis. An analysis of the use of salbutamol in the decrease of airway resistance of bronchopulmonary dysplasia in very young infants completes this issue's excellent original articles. This research provides new information on a possible new therapy to decrease the severity of bronchopulmonary dysplasia.

The review features a contribution dealing with the often-misunderstood illness of Tourette's syndrome.

Our international authors have provided us with a case report of chronic pulmonary thromboembolism from Brazil, and prize-winning abstracts from a recent conference held in Miami, Florida by the Eastern Students Research Forum. We continue to welcome these international contributions which help to make the *MJM* a unique journal dedicated to student research.

Our Crossroads section features an article in the fascinating field of ethnopsychiatry, with a historical look at the European views on "the African Mind." Finally, the *MJM* Focus section contains the completion of the Forum on Tumor Markers, begun in Volume 2, Number 2. World experts in the field of tumor markers have presented comprehensive reviews on the history, current application, and future direction of the tumor markers carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) and CA-125.

As the *MJM* continues to build on its strengths and gain recognition around the world, we hope that you will continue to read the Journal for the latest in student medical research, now and for many years to come.

[Jana L. Taylor, B.Sc.](#)

Editor-in-Chief

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### **BIOGRAPHY**

**Jana Taylor** is the third Editor-in-Chief of the *McGill Journal of Medicine*. She received her B.Sc. in Biochemistry with First Class Honors from McGill University (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) in 1995 and is currently a second-year student at the McGill University Faculty of Medicine. In the summers of 1994 and 1995, she worked for Health Canada evaluating clinical trials for the use of new medications in Canada.

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