

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

2011 marks the 300th anniversary of the medical school in Trinity College Dublin; an incredible milestone by any measure. It is humbling for me to consider that it is this very institution I attend which has fostered the minds of William Stokes, Robert Graves, and Denis Burkitt, whose names and contributions are immortalized in medical nomenclature, eponyms, hospital wards, and wings. And while I most certainly will never be associated with the likes of such legends, I am confident that this school will continue to generate many more brilliant individuals destined for greatness.

The TSMJ was founded by a few forward thinking students not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of other students. Since 1999, the TSMJ has shared, acknowledged, and published the outstanding work and ideas of their peers, in a show of appreciation for their initiative, and in hopes of inspiring others.

This year, the tercentenary issue brings the focus not just to the students, but the environment that nurtures them; an institution that has persevered for 300 years and will likely do so for another 300 more. So it is with a spirit of pride, hope, and admiration that we, despite times of austerity, celebrate the tercentenary of Trinity College Dublin's School of Medicine.

As with every celebration of a particular milestone, we pay tribute to the past, cherish the present, and look forward with anticipation to tomorrow. The knowledge of today was developed and discovered at the expense and sacrifice of those before us: who dared, who challenged the status quo, and who triumphed over failure and adversity with their tenacity and determination. Their actions are a testament to the faith and dedication needed for our vocation, and serve as the inspirational motivation that permits us to confront today's medical, ethical, and financial challenges with hope and optimism; to believe we can make a difference, and act not only for us, but for future generations to follow.

In a similar way, by fate, serendipity, and design, we have formed what I believe (through a brief perusal of previous editions of the TSMJ) to be the smallest (and in my shamelessly biased opinion, the most talented) committee since the inaugural launch of the TSMJ. This was a committee that respected the traditions of the past, but was not afraid to try new things. And more importantly, it was a committee that learned from its mistakes and experiences, resolved conflicts, and vowed to pass on our knowledge and lessons for the benefit of future

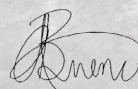
committees. And despite our limited numbers, we have proudly put together an issue that maintains the high standard of quality established by our predecessors.

It is with their ambition for continuous improvement in mind that we've designed this celebratory edition of the TSMJ. We've addressed aesthetics, adopted new technologies, and streamlined the production process. And in a big step towards greater integrity and impartiality, we have freed ourselves from industry sponsorship, as promised to the previous Director of the TSMJ. And while we are eternally grateful to all our sponsors, both past and present, we ultimately understand that this was a necessary step as the journal grows in reach and professionalism.

As my deadline draws near and I run out of both space and time, I would like to take one last opportunity to thank and congratulate my fellow committee members, who have worked tirelessly to create what I believe to be the finest edition of the TSMJ yet. I must thank Tim and all the editors for all the arduous and often thankless work they do; Allan for the amazing photos of the Anatomy Department; Orna and Rebecca for the Erasmus photos; Duncan & Rory for the entertainment page; Peter for being part of the production team; and Syd, Ann-Marie and Gabriella for planning what is sure to be an amazing debate and launch party.

And of course, thank you to our generous donors, who continue to support the voice of the medical students of Trinity through their financial contributions. Thank you to Libby & Mai and all the previous committee members of the TSMJ: the proverbial giants on whose shoulders we stand on today. And finally, thank you to you, our fellow students, for ultimately, the TSMJ is a manifestation of your thoughts, ideas, and hard work. We hope you like what you see!

Antonio Bueno



Director, 2011

