

Letters from the TSMJ Committee



Dear Reader,

The TSMJ has been the best extra-curricular experience I've had in Trinity, and I'm proud to have the opportunity to be part of such an extraordinary organization for three years. How the committee manages to produce a publication with relatively limited resources in such a short amount of time continues to amaze me.

Last year, we celebrated the tercentenary of the medical school; this year, we build on that legacy for future generations to celebrate. And in doing so, we continue to challenge the status quo, but not without purpose. The goal of the journal has always been to open a constructive dialogue between students, faculty, and all members of the Health Sciences. We would fail ourselves and each other if we skirt the important issues that could shape the future of medical education in Ireland.

Despite the unfortunate animosity that may exist between competing sides, we as health professionals are united by a common goal: the betterment of the health status of individuals and the community. It is important, therefore, to understand why differences may arise in the pursuit of this goal, and what we may do to reconcile these differences, or at the very least, start a constructive conversation between each other so we may begin to understand them.

Regardless of one's religious and spiritual beliefs, we should welcome dialogue between all people, regardless of their inclinations, understanding that we may not always be right. To neglect the hypocrisy of mere mortals, who are leaders of the Church, political parties, and special interest groups that we may associate with, would be hypocritical of me. By neglecting to accept the possibility that we may not always be right, and responding in anger to those who oppose our viewpoints, or maybe even

hatred, organizations, countries, societies and yes, even ourselves have acted through ignorance and hubris, failing to do the right thing. Yes, to err is human. Yet while nobody's past is perfect, our future is still spotless, and we need not tarnish it with the same mistakes of the past.

Hate is what is destructive and contrary to our goal; it serves only to sever dialogue, disrupt unity, and not only stall progress, but even reverse it. The sooner we learn to understand and respect each, the sooner we can work towards solutions that are acceptable to all parties.

And so, whatever your beliefs may be, and reactions you may have to the opinions stated in this journal, please understand that while these views do not necessarily reflect the views of the TSMJ as an organization, they are opinions you will undoubtedly face in your professional, academic, and personal life. It is our hope that we have somehow helped you form a well-informed and educated perspective in the matter, so that you may assert your own opinions respectfully, as your fellow colleagues have done in this edition of TSMJ.

And what an edition it is! I could not end this letter without thanking everyone in the committee I have worked with throughout the years in the TSMJ. Once again, thank you Libby Ennis for trusting a 1st year to be your production manager, and in the following year, your successor. To my co-director Sydnee Lim, whose tenacity and assertiveness is matched only by her compassion and empathy for her fellow committee members; your expertise and leadership were exemplary. Thank you for being a great co-Commander-in-chief. To our Editor-in-chief Rebecca Weedle, who worked tirelessly as an Executive and an Editor in a time of transition, experimentation, and uncertainty: patient as she is passionate; opinionated as she is talented;

thank you for challenging me to be a better leader.

To our resident miracle workers, Peter Tsakkos, who twice now I've managed to bamboozle into Production, and newcomer Kelsey Tallon: amazing work; the quality of this year's production speaks for itself. Congratulations on a job well done.

The photography in this issue has been provided by Sean Maguire, adding the extra colour to our journal that highlights the unique individuals, organizations, and buildings of Trinity College Dublin. A tradition started with our Tercentenary Edition by Allan Klompas, we hope that its presence serves to add to the journal and our heritage rather than detract from the quality of the scientific articles they serve to supplement.

To Sydnee's Public Relations and Marketing Team: thank you for providing us with the finances to continue to operate. And of course, thank you to our generous donors, including the School of Medicine, for believing in the value that we bring to the community.

To all the editors, especially those who assisted the production team in the formatting process: your work is often tedious and thankless, but absolutely essential to the success of the journal. Thank you for your humble contributions.

Finally, thank you to you, dear reader, for allowing us to share our work with you. We hope you enjoy this issue and the work of your peers; may it inspire you to get involved in the future, whether as a reader, author, editor, producer, marketer, or director!

Sincerely,

Antonio Bueno
Co-Director
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