

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 2010 edition of the Trinity Student Medical Journal. It has been a busy year for the TSMJ team, with unprecedented numbers of submissions and a mini tour of the country spreading the word about the journal. I am proud to say that the result is a great edition of the TSMJ that I hope you enjoy reading as much as we enjoyed producing.

I want to thank the indefatigable committee; our editors for their many hours spent pouring over rough drafts, the sponsorship team for balancing the books, the conference coordinators for masterminding the launch, the production team for making the journal a reality and our predecessors for all their help and guidance.

This peer-reviewed medical journal is an indispensable outlet for the presentation of original research, academic review and personal opinion for Health Science students across Ireland and none of this would be possible without the generosity of our sponsors, patrons and advertisers. The Trinity College School of Medicine has been a constant support and as always St. James's Hospital, AMNCH, CWIUH and the TCMA have dug deep in their coffers to sponsor our annual scholarships and prizes. Yet again we have been humbled by the support of our consultants and GPs in what has proven to be a very financially challenging time globally.

With this continuing support the TSMJ has grown year on year and evolved from what was originally a publication for only Trinity medical students to an all-Ireland journal. We want the TSMJ to not only be an outlet for undergraduate writing but also a guide and an encouragement to students to get involved in original research.

Evidence based medicine and medical research are becoming more and more integral to all health science courses. We are committed to making the TSMJ, and research in general, more accessible to students. We continue to offer awards for Best Research and Best Article within the journal and also prizes for best Research Poster at our annual launch. This year, however, we have become a bit more proactive. The TSMJ Tercentenary Research Grant is a grant available to undergraduate medical students to fund a six week research project in a Trinity associated laboratory or clinical directorate.

“Medicine is not only a science; it is also an art. It does not consist of compounding pills and plasters; it deals with the very processes of life, which must be understood before they may be guided.” Paracelsus

This grant has been set up in the hope that it will provide a framework for other students approaching research in the future and we hope that we can continue to offer the grant in coming years.

The TSMJ is never happy to just sit on its laurels; the future will bring many challenges and opportunities for us but we hope to make the TSMJ bigger and better. As we proceed into our second decade of production we have come a long way and we hope that the hard work and dedication shows in this, our 11th TSMJ edition.

Best wishes,

Libby Ennis
Director 2010

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