

DIRECTORS' WELCOME

The Trinity Student Medical Journal (TSMJ) was established in 2000 by a group of forward-thinking students as a platform for their research in the health sciences. In the journal's decade and a half of life, it has blossomed into a forum for ideas, a starting point for discussion, and, to the delight of those involved, a meeting place for like-minded people. The journal would not have reached its current standard without the exceptional talent and capability of past members and leaders and their uncompromised toil to produce the finest work possible. With a continuation of this trend we can be very excited about the future of the TSMJ.

We feel that the articles featured in this year's edition represent the highest standard of submission we have received to date. As a result we had to employ stricter publishing criteria and unfortunately many very high quality articles did not make it to print. However, we sincerely thank all the authors who submitted for their brilliant efforts and for enabling us to showcase the thriving state of student research in Trinity.

We are privileged to work such an enthusiastic and talented team. We appreciate their commitment and hard work in the face of such narrow deadlines. We would like to thank our Chief Editor, Laura Mangan, for ensuring such a high standard of content of this year's edition. In addition, we are convinced that this year's peer editors are some of the most capable members of health science community. We are glad to have them onboard and we are looking forward to more talented individuals joining us in the coming years.

This edition sees a complete re-invigoration of the journal's layout. We wish to extend our thanks to our new Production Manager, Mohamed Alsaffar, for his work on this re-design, one we feel reflects our continued effort to keep the look of the TSMJ as modern and elegant as its content. We are indebted to our Marketing and Conference teams, who work tirelessly to make the journal a reality. We would like to thank Neelam Devi Nath for her participation in the Marketing, Conference and

Editing teams.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin for their sponsorship and guidance. We would like to extend our thanks to Professor Paul Browne, Head of the School of Medicine, and Professor Martina Hennessy, Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning. Their support and encouragement has been indispensable. In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to the hospital departments and individual academics and consultants who have sponsored us, as well as to our anonymous sponsors.

The Professor of Comparative Immunology at Trinity, Professor Cliona O'Farrelly, has once again provided unparalleled guidance in our undertaking. Her supervision has fostered our confidence in our ability to create this student-led production. We also thank Dr. Ronan Mullaney, Clinical Lecturer in Forensic Psychiatry at Trinity, for his expert opinion and advice regarding the journal's content.

We must extend our thanks to the previous Co-Director of the TSMJ, Dr Peter Tsakkos, for his continued assistance. Indeed, Peter's mentoring will have a long-lasting impact on the journal. We wish him all the best in his career.

In keeping with tradition, this edition is of no charge to our readers. We are grateful for your continuous feedback and contribution – your input has ensured the success of the journal.

Welcome to Volume 16 of the TSMJ.

Sincerely,

Abdel Sattar Al Rubayawi, Chief Director
Kate Richards and David Parfrey, Co-Directors