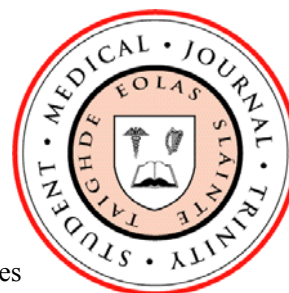


Dear Reader,

I congratulate you on your purchase of the third volume of the Trinity Student Medical Journal, and welcome you to a unique educational experience. This has been a very exciting year for all involved with this publication. I had the honour of directing the TSMJ team where the culmination of a dynamic group effort resulted in several new initiatives. We created a scholarship, organised a conference and opened up our journal to include other healthcare faculties within Trinity College. We have introduced a Feature Section and this issue's topic is *Global Perspectives on Healthcare*.



In addition to our new developments, familiar sections remain within the TSMJ. They include review articles, original research, and literature. I commend all authors for submitting their work for publication, which we are able to reward appropriately. The prize fund has almost doubled this year to £1500 for top submissions. Yet again, the students have raised the bar in the quality of their work, thereby ensuring the Trinity Student Medical Journal is serving its underlying purpose: "To provide an inclusive vehicle for students to communicate current medical research, opinions and thoughts."

Realising that many students devote hours, weeks and years to pursue interests outside their core studies of medicine, a TSMJ Scholarship has been created to reward excellence in extra-curricular activities. Totalling £1000, it is awarded to one individual from the first five medical years. As our advisors always say, "Work Hard, Play Hard!"

The first TSMJ-Evening Conference is being held this year to provide awareness of medical and healthcare issues within the student body. This year's theme is *Healthcare Issues in the Developing World*. The evening conference is symbolic of the exponential growth of our young publication.

We wish to combine our traditions and new initiatives with other routes of expansion. We hope to acquire our own premises and publishing hardware, thus enabling our expansion in the future to a bi-annual publication. In addition, we would like to open a TSMJ bookstore at one of the teaching hospitals to provide for all students.

The finances of the Trinity Student Medical Journal were given a significant boost this year with Wyeth Laboratories coming on board as our Premier Sponsor. Their support has assisted in the realisation of our dreams for this publication. Given our already strong relationship with Wyeth over the recent years, we hope they will be with us as the TSMJ evolves into a "must read" for all healthcare professionals.

I would like to give thanks to the 2002 TSMJ team. Each member exceeded their job description to bring the TSMJ to a new level. Our advisors, Professor Moira O'Brien and Professor Con Feighery gave unlimited time and support to discuss our ambitions, ideas and problems. The Trinity Student Medical Journal has matured because of their continual encouragement.

Special thanks go to Professor Coakley and Dr. Bernard Walsh for affording us the Mercer's Institute for Research on Ageing at St. James' Hospital as premises for production of the TSMJ. There are so many other people who aided with our accomplishments that on behalf of everyone at Team-TSMJ, I thank you.

I now would like to present you with the Trinity Student Medical Journal...sit back and enjoy the ride.

Raymond Walls
Director of Publication