

In the third *MSRJ* issue of 2013 and the first of the 2013–2014 academic year, we are very excited to present enlightening and thought-provoking articles. We are publishing the work of students from Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine and Creighton University School of Medicine. This journal has seen large growth since the Spring 2013 issue, and we have bigger plans for the future.

The *MSRJ* has had more submissions and submission inquiries in the time period between the Spring 2013 and Fall 2013 issues than it has received since the very first call for submissions. We attribute this not only to an increased amount of public relations work in the past few months, but also to the hard work and diligence of our previous and current staff members setting the journal up for success. As we continue to receive interesting and novel manuscripts, we will continue to add to our staff of talented medical student reviewers to handle the growth; however, due to the demanding schedule of medical students, we can never have too many reviewers so please consider joining us in this capacity.

This year we implemented a new submission contest. Eligible authors had the chance to earn cash prizes in different categories including reflections, case reports, and original manuscripts. The contest came to a close with the publication of the Fall issue. The contest was a great success, bringing in many great submissions and generating more publicity for the journal. We hope to announce the winners by the end of the year, and because of the success of the contest, we may make this a recurring competition.

Our new staff is settling into their respective roles; reviewing manuscripts and serving on the editorial board. During our monthly meetings, they continually come up with great ideas that we expect to improve the *MSRJ* for years to come. One of the most rewarding parts of being an editor is being able to share our experience and insight with the *MSRJ* staff and inspire them to continue on the legacy.

Immediate plans for the future involve adding a greater focus to the educational aspects of the journal through an elective course at our college. This elective will continue to evolve and become a strong fixture in

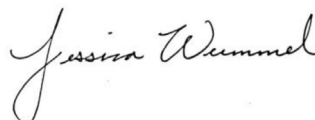
the student curriculum at MSU-CHM; enabling us to teach about the principles of peer-review, strong reviewing techniques, and the background behind academic publishing, as well as generating interest among first-year medical students to become future *MSRJ* staff members. We plan on adding to our website blog with featured postings by our editorial staff, covering important topics for understanding academic publishing, understanding and writing about statistics, and the proper writing and review of manuscripts. In addition, our Twitter account (@MSRJCHM) has become a resource not only for updates about the journal but also provides almost daily tips on writing and publishing. We hope to continue our public relation campaign to increase awareness of the journal and spread knowledge to those that follow us.

Again, we would like to thank the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine for their continued support. In addition, we would like to acknowledge the hard work of our talented staff in making this issue possible; without them the journal would not run smoothly and efficiently. We hope that our readers will continue to follow the progress of the *MSRJ*, both on Facebook and Twitter, and on our website at <http://www.MSRJ.org>. Please continue to send your wonderful manuscripts as we love learning and teaching, and hope to improve the academic skills of medical students from around the globe.

Sincerely,



Kevin Patterson
Executive Editor – *MSRJ* 2013–2014



Jessica Wummel
Executive Editor – *MSRJ* 2013–2014