

In this second issue for this year, there are articles from Tulane University SoM, American University of the Caribbean SoM, as well as our home institution Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine.

Many exciting events have happened with the MSRJ since the last issue was published. The recruiting class of 2013 has brought our executive editorial board to a total of 21 students representing first- to fourth-year students at the College of Human Medicine. I am proud to name my successors to the executive editor position of the MSRJ. Kevin Patterson is a fourth-year student who is planning a career in internal medicine that will incorporate a career in academic medicine. Jessica Wummel is a third-year student who is still undecided on her career choice, but feels it lies within the field of primary care. Having worked with these talented and dedicated individuals, I have great faith in their leadership ability and believe they will take the MSRJ to new heights.

Over the past nine months, we have put extensive work into upgrading and transforming our website. We came to the realization that this is our portal to the rest of the world and wanted it to better reflect the goals and aspirations of the journal's leadership. In mid-April 2013, we launched the new design. You can see the new website at our usual address: www.msrg.org. Please visit it periodically for updates and reports on events happening at the MSRJ as well as prospective topics for upcoming editions.

During the last week in April, the MSRJ sent four editors to the 54th National Student Research Forum at the University of Texas in Galveston. This forum is organized and run by medical students from the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine. Medical students, residents, and graduate students doing research in the biomedical sciences present their research, surrounded by their peers. More information about the forum can be found on their website: www.utmb.edu/nsrf. We would like to thank the organizers of the conference, specifically Samuel Mathis for doing an exceptional job leading this endeavor. Our editors had the opportunity to interact with medical students from all over the country. They attended poster presentations and worked diligently to raise awareness of the MSRJ. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to have had a representation at the conference. You will find a full post of the experience written by Jessica Wummel on our website.

Working with the Michigan State University Library, we have produced physical copies of our editions. These copies will be produced once a year and are bound into a periodical format. The MSU library will index and keep them in perpetuity at the main campus library in East Lansing Michigan, where they will also be indexed digitally on the library's main website. This will ensure that the published works of our authors will be accessible in the foreseeable future.

The MSRJ is also moving forward with plans to be indexed in PubMed Central. After publication of the fall issue, scheduled for September of this year, we will be eligible to apply, and on completion of the application process all MSRJ articles will be retroactively indexed in this premier research archive. The MSRJ is also now a member of the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), which will provide us with more resources, increase access to editorial experts worldwide, and build our capacity and skills. All of these strategic improvements will help us reach our goals while better serving MSRJ authors.

We would like to thank Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine for their continued support and funding. If not for them, this endeavor would not have been possible. As always, if you are considering submitting a manuscript, you can find more detailed instructions on the MSRJ website. It has been a pleasure to work as an editor over the past year. I believe that this can be a significant outlet for medical students to publish their research work, enabling them to receive credit for publishing, but even more importantly, contributing to the general body of medical knowledge and teaching valuable academic skills.

Sincerely,



Chad Klochko, M.S.
Executive Editor, MSRJ 2012–2013