

With the wrap-up of the 2013–2014 academic year, we are proud of the strides that *Medical Student Research Journal (MSRJ)* has made. The journal has grown in the number of issues as well as in the number of articles published per issue. In addition, the breadth of article types and topics has greatly increased. This spring issue includes works from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, University of the East Ramon, University of East Anglia Norwich Medical School, and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

The production of regular issues creates the drive for continued submissions which always astounds our editorial team in both number and quality. Because of this, our staff continues to expand each year, making it possible to accommodate the increasing domestic and international submissions and readership. As our annual student elective successfully comes to an end, we have accumulated a fresh group of enthusiastic students ready to take on the junior editor role. The incoming group of junior editors brings new ideas, not only about the annual reviewing and publishing course elective but also for future developments meant to strengthen the journal. The current staff is excited to begin a new year at *MSRJ* and teach new staff the ropes.

We congratulate all of our graduating fourth year medical students as they move on to incredible residency positions. I will be moving on to Ohio State University for Internal Medicine; Jon Zande, one of our senior editors, will be beginning his Neurology residency at Case Western Reserve University – University Hospitals; and Skyler Johnson, another senior editor, will start his Radiation Oncology residency at Yale University. Jon and Skyler will be greatly missed, but we wish them the best of luck as they embark on the next part of their careers.

I am proud to say that over the past year, the journal has made progress by instituting more education about scientific writing and publishing, greater social media coverage to involve a larger group of people, expanded website resources and information, gained further support from our college, and increased visibility with indexing services, as well as further establishing journal

permanence. I have observed *MSRJ* undergo an incredible amount of change over the past 3 years as a member of the board and over the past year as executive editor. This has been a vast learning experience and will always have a lasting impact on my future in academic medicine. It is saddening to leave the journal and this amazing team, but I know *MSRJ* will continue to improve and expand. I hope to have left a lasting impression on the journal in its educational aspects to encourage others to expand their thinking, analysis, writing, editing, and publishing skills.

As with the end of each academic year, the leadership at *MSRJ* changes to bring in new leadership and perspectives to the journal; Jessica Wummel will continue as executive editor for the 2014–2015 year, and Jack Mettler will be promoted to deputy executive editor for the same term. The March editorial-board meeting brought out an amazing set of ideas from new leaders, with a comprehensive set of goals, and strong contributions from the rest of the board. There is no doubt that this new leadership team will continue the excellent publication and education goals that *MSRJ* has strived for and produced since its inception.

As always, we thank the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine for their ongoing support. This journal would not be possible without the talented and dedicated staff taking time out of their busy schedules to promote *MSRJ*. Our readers are invited to follow the progress of the *MSRJ* both on Facebook and Twitter, and on our website at <http://www.MSRJ.org>. As the journal's editorial base expands, it is making room for more submissions and providing more education for the aspiring physician–researchers/educators/learners.

Sincerely,



Kevin C. Patterson
Executive Editor – *MSRJ* 2013–2014