

The editors of *MSRJ* would like to extend our warm wishes in the winter season and hope that it has been filled with joy, family, and good fortune. We are very excited to introduce the first issue of 2014, as well as the second issue of the 2013–2014 academic year. As medical students around the world return to their books and clinic duties, we present educational and stimulating new articles. The published works in this issue highlight the efforts of students from Creighton University School of Medicine, Wayne State University School of Medicine, and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

Since the release of our latest issue, this journal has experienced a steady influx of submissions from all over the world. We feel overjoyed that medical students are keeping us busy by sending in their hard work, and we are constantly impressed by the high caliber of articles that we receive. At the time our last issue went to print, our submission contest came to a close. This contest gave medical students, who submitted articles to us, a chance to win cash prizes. Prizes will be awarded to the best article in the following four categories: original manuscript/brief report, case reports, reviews, and reflections; *MSRJ* staff members are currently working hard to grade each submission and determine a winner for each category. This contest was a tremendous success: not only did the journal have a substantial increase in submissions but the quality of articles was also top notch. We encourage readers to stay tuned for the announcement of the contest winners and to keep their eyes open for a potential second version of the submission contest.

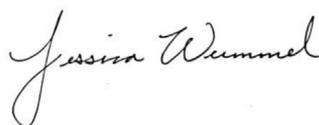
Our editorial staff members continue to amaze us. We are constantly learning from each other's innovative ideas in an effort to make our journal the best it can be for our readers and authors. Seeing our bright staff work together never fails to excite us about our journal's future and what we will have in store for future readers.

As *MSRJ* forges ahead, we are on the verge of some very exciting events. We are currently beginning our spring elective program for first- and second-year students at MSU–CHM. This elective has a dual purpose: to give interested students an education about how to critically appraise the literature (a skill imperative to our evidence-based medical society)

and to recruit new members for our editorial staff. We are excited to see what these new students have to offer and to kick off another great year for *MSRJ*. The journal will be instituting digital object identifiers for past and future articles to prove the longevity of the journal and respond to author requests. The editors plan to visit scientific conferences throughout the year to spread the word of our publication/educational opportunities. In addition, the editorial board is in the planning stages of accepting abstracts and audio/visual submissions. We will continue to update readers of our progress through posts on Facebook and Twitter, as well as bring news about interesting events in the medical and research communities.

Again, we thank the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine for their continued support. We also acknowledge the hard work of our talented staff in making this issue possible; without them, the journal would not have all of the life and excitement that they bring. 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, striving to help improve the academic skills of medical students from around the globe.

Sincerely,



Jessica Wummel
Executive Editor – *MSRJ* 2013–2014



Kevin Patterson
Executive Editor – *MSRJ* 2013–2014