

The 'Art' of Medicine

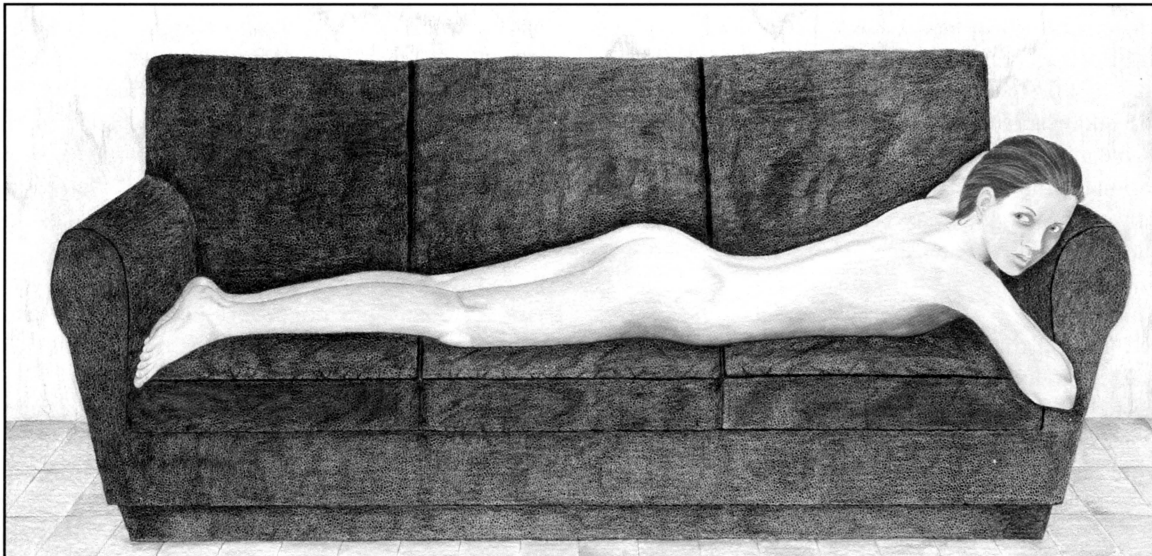
This journal has made it a tradition to publish articles surrounding issues that are prominent in public discourse, and this issue is noteworthy for its distinct emphasis on such relevant topics. These include pertinent issues surrounding family practice, pain management, infectious disease, prostate screening and hormone replacement therapy (HRT), all issues of particular interest in the Canadian media. As a peer reviewed medical journal, the *DMJ* is proud to provide unique, objective explorations of issues whose portrayal in the media is often simplified and can be misleading.

This edition of the *Dalhousie Medical Journal* is particularly special for us because, for the first time in recent years, we have had the opportunity to print not only scientific articles investigating multiple aspects of clinical medicine, but also to present creative works related to medicine. This edition of the *DMJ* features a series of poems by Shane Neilson, a member of the medical community in Halifax, about his experiences with epilepsy. Shane's poems allow us a look at the emotional aspects of medicine that can be neglected in everyday clinical practice. We all experience wellness and illness in unique ways which can be difficult to express and share with others. Furthermore, we all have varied experiences as student learners, as practicing physicians and as patients. We believe it is important to provide an avenue for expression of the emotional aspects of medicine. The content of Shane's poems is complemented by an illustration by Karthika Devarajan, a first year medical student at Dalhousie.

The front cover of this edition and the image below also reflect a continued tradition in which works of art from Dalhousie's annual *Art In Medicine* show are displayed. Each year a theme is chosen by the *Art In Medicine* committee and participants transform their thoughts and experiences into visual and written art. Both "Fragment" and "Obsession" come from this year's exhibit titled "consumed," with an underlying theme of Eating Disorders.

The elusive "art of medicine" involves more than simply knowing the intricacies of human physiology. It incorporates science with communication and caring for people. With this in mind, we are pleased to broaden the spectrum of the *DMJ* by including a creative writing section. An outlet for daily experiences in medicine, encouraging or discouraging, is essential. Thank you to all for your continued support of the Dalhousie Medical Journal and we sincerely hope you find your read both informative and enjoyable.

Teneille Gofton and Kira Rich, Co-Editors of the *Dalhousie Medical Journal*



"Obsession"
40" X 24" Colored Pencil on Paper
Dagmar MacManus '07
Art in Medicine 2004