

EDITORS' MESSAGE

We are enthused to present our second issue of the DMJ for 2009. Once again our authors have submitted a wide range of written work for peer reviewed publication in our journal. We hope that this publication continues to encourage medical student research and writing, and to serve as an appropriate venue for expression by allied health professions. In the future we look forward to boosting our submission numbers and continuing to expand the range of submissions, both topically and geographically. Through our updated eDMJ website we hope to continue to make issues available online, enhance the visibility of the DMJ and promote the submission of future manuscripts. The reader is directed to <http://edmj.medicine.dal.ca>.

This issue has a number of different works. Through examination of a series of plastic surgery cases, Parks and Morris evaluate the management of traumatic hand injuries resulting in amputation distal to the wrist. This work will certainly be of value to those working in acute care settings that may encounter such injuries. Also in the realm of plastic surgery, Gibson and Williams present a case report outlining the unique considerations associated with the surgical management of hand injuries in a musician.

In a comprehensive review by Broad and Scott, the evidence behind prevention of preterm birth by therapeutic cerclage after measurement of short cervix on transvaginal ultrasound (TVUS) is discussed. While this review confirms that there is no benefit of cerclage over more conservative

management following identification of short cervix on TVUS in low-risk pregnant women, the authors provide a critical appraisal of the need for future research in this area, and discuss the clinical implications associated with such work.

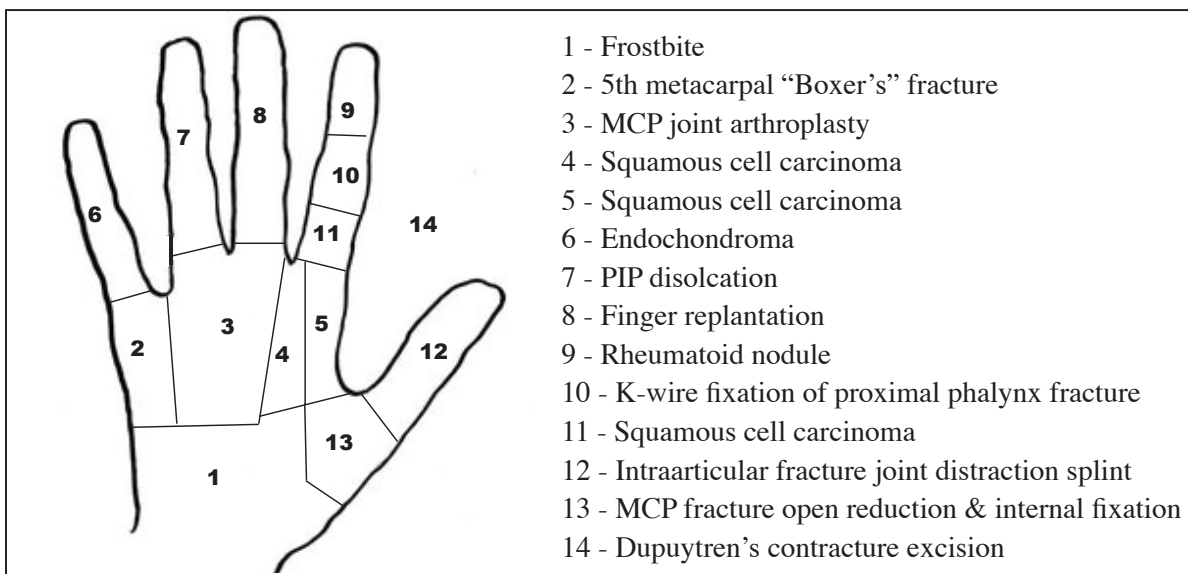
One of our humanities pieces for this issue is in the domain of medical history. Mendez communicates the history of transsphenoidal surgery for the endoscopic approach for treatment of pituitary adenomas. This is an interesting read and cites works over 100 years old. A second humanities work in this issue is a book review of "Call Me Doctor," written by Dalhousie Medical School alumnus Shane Neilson, who recounts his atypical journey through our undergraduate medical program and a residency in Newfoundland.

In a new segment of the DMJ we will be including peer reviewed works that focus on particular medical disciplines. In this issue we present a paper on anaesthesiology in the undergraduate medical curriculum. It is an informative paper on the role of this specialty in medical education, and it is also a timely piece as Dalhousie undergoes curriculum renewal involving many stakeholders.

We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to providing you with another publication in the spring of 2010.

Stephen Smith and Shane Journey
Editors-in-Chief, DMJ

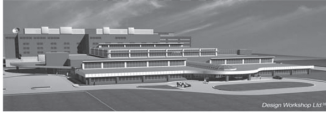
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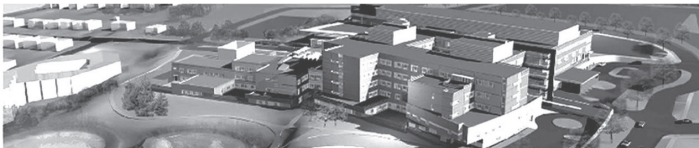
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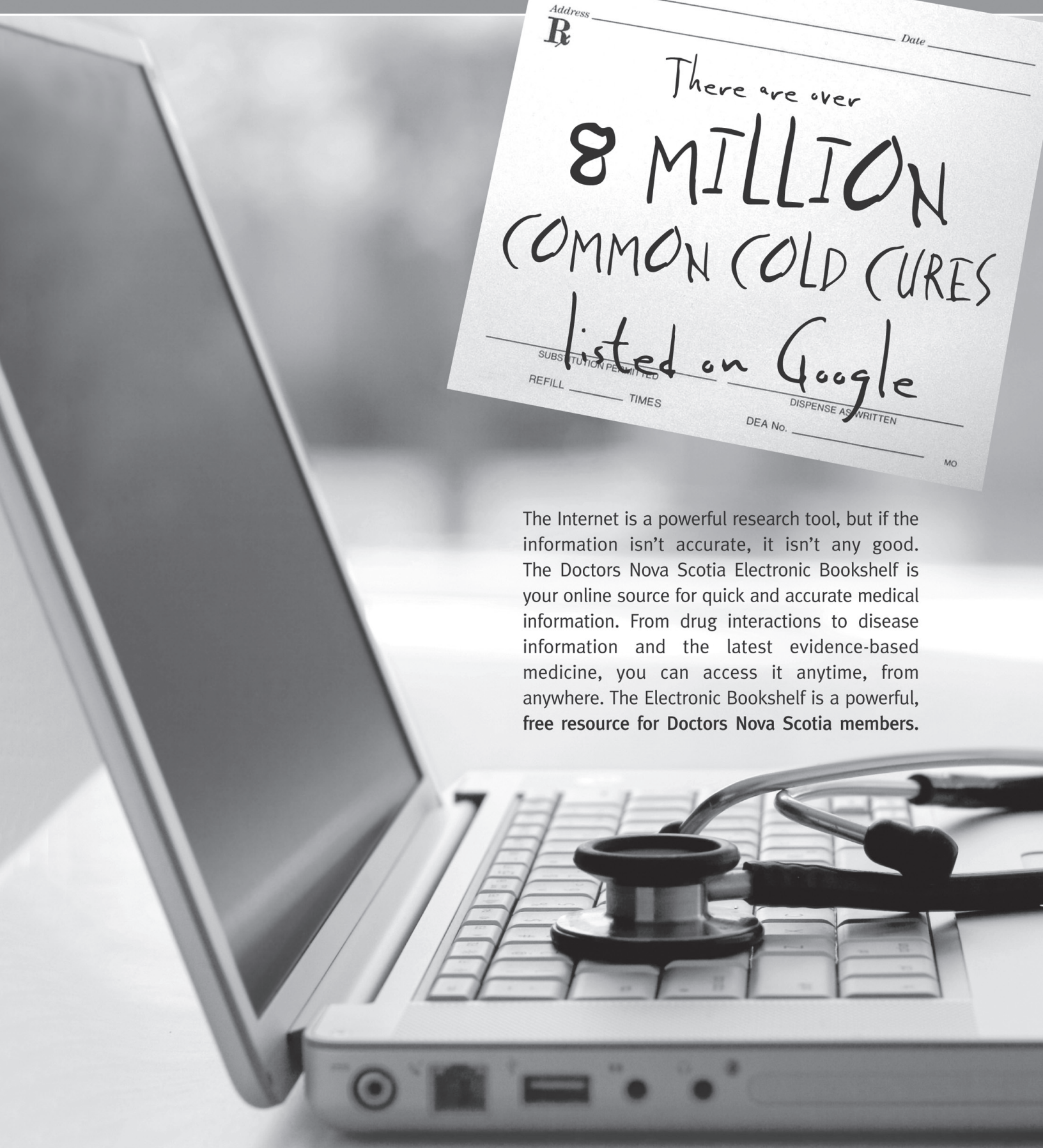
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