

# EDITORS' MESSAGE

We are pleased to present the first 2010 issue of the DMJ. Our Dalhousie Medical Journal scope continues to include a diversified collection of articles that covers both the sciences and humanities. We are pleased to present the work of talented writers from both the medical and allied health sciences.

Our research section begins with a study which explores the accuracy of seven of the most common stereotests used to detect strabismus. This study, completed by a team at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, addresses the reports of potential flaws in these tests of stereoacuity. Specifically those reports that monocular clues enable the patient to provide a positive response even though their stereovision is compromised. The monocular acuity of a cohort with normal stereoacuity was compared to the performance of a cohort with horizontal strabismus, hypothesizing that the latter group might be more adapted to detect these clues as they rely on them more heavily in their daily lives. This research serves as a reminder that we need to consider special factors specific to patient populations before interpreting test results. These results are particularly timely for those examining stereoacuity in a primary care setting.

A comprehensive literature review and case report on total hip arthroplasty in a young adult with Stickler connective tissue disorder covers the myriad presentations of this disease. This paper is by a group of students from both Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto and the University of Michigan and explores the age-dependant challenges to the surgical management of this syndrome and presents the unique case of a 17 year old patient. Another interesting case report presented in this issue covers the 11th known case of a supraglottic rhabdomyoma. It is the first to be treated with an endoscopic CO<sub>2</sub> laser, and the 84 year old patient recovered with no recurrence of the tumour. Endoscopic CO<sub>2</sub> laser surgery is becoming an increasingly popular surgical option for early stage laryngeal malignancies.

We also present a literature review by Jeremy Murphy, which explores the benefits of specific lifestyle modifications on reducing the incidence of age related macular degeneration. This is a prime example of the forward thinking approach that is needed today. Patients are more frequently asking about lifestyle modification and their risk of disease and this informative paper reviews some of these factors as relates to the prevalent condition of macular degeneration.

The history of medicine paper for this issue is written by Ashton and LeBlanc. The authors pay homage to the historical approaches to toxicology and how they apply to current practices, in particular the use of activated charcoal and ipecac. Concluding our humanities section, and this issue, is a captivating book review by Alison Dixon. The personal account in this book bridges the gap between patient and physician by presenting the experience of a neuroanatomist during her recovery from a hemorrhagic stroke.

The DMJ team sincerely hopes that you find this issue enjoyable and relevant, and we look forward to providing you with another publication this Fall.

*Shane Journeay, Marcella Cronkhite, and Nina Hynick  
Editors-in-Chief, DMJ*

## Live, work and play on the South Shore

Imagine yourself kayaking, canoeing, sailing, whale watching, diving or enjoying one of our many golf courses, hiking trails, theatres, galleries or museums. We are located on Nova Scotia's South Shore (one hour from metro Halifax), where miles of coastline are marked by beautiful, sandy beaches and picturesque towns including Bridgewater, Chester, Liverpool, Lunenburg and Mahone Bay; where hundreds of lakes, streams and rivers flow through small fishing villages and dense forests.

The District requires physicians for:

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Emergency Medicine
- Psychiatry
- Anesthesia
- Radiology

Candidates must be eligible for licensure in Nova Scotia.

*Inquiries and applications may be directed to:*

**Dr. Peter Vaughan, VP Medicine**  
**South Shore District Health Authority**  
90 Glen Allan Drive  
Bridgewater NS B4V 3S6  
Canada  
Telephone: 902-527-5057  
Fax: 902-527-5269  
E-mail: [pvaughan@ssdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:pvaughan@ssdha.nshealth.ca)  
Website: [www.ssdha.nshealth.ca](http://www.ssdha.nshealth.ca)

