
Collaborative Education at the Crossroads of Science and Humanism

Dr. Tinsley Harrison began the first edition of *Principles of Internal Medicine* with a reflection on the role and requirements of the physician:

“No greater opportunity, responsibility, or obligation can fall to the lot of a human being than to become a physician. In the care of the suffering he needs technical skill, scientific knowledge, and human understanding. He who uses these with courage, with humility, and with wisdom will provide a unique service for his fellow man, and will build an enduring edifice of character within himself.”¹

Founded in October of 2013, the *American Medical Student Research Journal* (AMSRJ) has aspired to promote the principles of technical skill, scientific knowledge, and human understanding espoused by Dr. Harrison. We have endeavored to serve as an educational platform for medical students across the globe to learn the principles of peer review and medical editing in both medical science and the humanities. Led by a multi-institutional collaborative team of over 150 members, we have published nearly 500 pages of medical student work in the last year, sharing innovative scientific studies, compelling clinical cases, insightful perspective essays, and creative artwork.

This issue features the work of medical students from Brown University, Creighton University, Johns Hopkins University, Louisiana State University Health-New Orleans, Louisiana State University Health-Shreveport, North Bengal Medical College (India), Pennsylvania State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Tufts University, Tulane University, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, University of California-Irvine, University of California-Los Angeles, University of California-Riverside, University of California-San Diego, University of Colorado, University of Otago (New Zealand), University of South Florida, University of Tasmania (Australia), University of Toledo, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Wayne State University, and Yale University.

This issue begins with a Foreword from LSU Health Shreveport Chancellor Dr. Robert Barish reflecting on the progress made by AMSRJ in the year since publication of the first issue. This is followed by an original cross-sectional study by Mandal et al. examining birth preparedness and complication readiness among postpartum women in Darjeeling, West Bengal, India. Wang et al. then open the Brief Reports section with a case series discussing successful posterior distraction osteogenesis for syndromic craniosynostosis. Carnevale et al. report a rare case of an elite HIV controller with the ability to maintain a healthy CD4+ count and suppressed viral load in the absence of antiretroviral therapy. Frizzell et al. present a case of severe selective mutism in a young male with

schizophrenia. Katrapati et al. discuss a unique late-onset presentation of mitochondrial encephalomyopathy, lactic acidosis, and stroke-like episodes (MELAS) syndrome and its symptomatic management. Soto et al. report the case of a pediatric patient with hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia presenting with a frontal lobe abscess.

Chan et al. present the case of a male infected with *Balamuthia mandrillaris*, a rare free-living amoeba that can cause fatal granulomatous amoebic encephalitis in immunocompetent patients. Ramirez et al. discuss the case of a patient with anti-synthetase syndrome presenting with a persistent cough and color change of the hands following exposure to cold. Lee et al. report an uncommon case of Crohn's disease restricted to the appendix. Ang et al. discuss opting for amputation rather than radical debridement in an elderly patient with severe sepsis secondary to necrotizing fasciitis of the lower extremity. Nuyen et al. describe the case of a clinically aggressive temporal bone tumor histologically identified as a benign fibro-osseous lesion. Marshall et al. present a case of diffuse Kaposi sarcoma with rare osseous involvement in an HIV-positive male with protein-losing enteropathy. Scheerer et al. present the second case of total colonic volvulus reported in the English literature. Bradley et al. discuss an abnormal presentation of suspected malignant hyperthermia following propofol and rocuronium use in a young male.

Minchin et al. report the first known case in Australia of *Clostridium sordellii* bacteremia of suspected pleuropulmonary focus. Fellner et al. present a case of preeclampsia and peripartum cardiomyopathy in a young woman. Curtis describes the case of a patient with osteolytic lesions secondary to metastatic carcinoma of unknown origin and evaluates the various scoring systems utilized to estimate prognosis in such cases. Al-Busaidi et al. discuss medical assessment and resuscitation of crucifixion victims. Richard et al. report an atypical manifestation of disseminated *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection. Taon presents the case of a submassive pulmonary embolism in a psoriatic patient, emphasizing the association between psoriasis and venous thromboembolism. Carr discusses treatment of metastatic melanoma in an immunocompromised patient. Horton et al. describe the severe sequelae of subacute bacterial endocarditis in a patient with a bicuspid aortic valve and Marfanoid habitus. Wang et al. report the treatment of proliferative diabetic retinopathy with intravitreal injection of ranibizumab. Melikian et al. close this section with the case of a young male with an extracranial high-flow arteriovenous malformation treated with combined trans-arterial coil and percutaneous onyx embolization.

Erfe begins the Humanities section with a discussion of the changes healthcare facilities must make in the wake of recent healthcare reform legislation, advocating for the adoption of a set of principles to optimize adaptability. Wannamaker et al. share their experience in creating a quality improvement project, highlighting strategies for medical students to successfully initiate and conduct a sustainable quality improvement project. Keepert shares a moving patient care experience, reflecting on humanism and the modern medical system. Graham contemplates the physician-patient relationship in the

age of the electronic medical record, addressing strategies for overcoming barriers and increasing collaboration. Greenway concludes this issue with an insightful discussion of the narratives at the core of healthcare, highlighting the physician's privilege and obligation to listen to and share these stories.

As always, the production of this issue is enabled by the hard work of many. We would like to thank Dr. John A. Vanchiere, Chair of the Faculty Advisory Board, for providing invaluable guidance to the editorial staff. We extend our deepest gratitude to members of our Faculty Advisory Board, listed on pages 3-4, for their service mentoring future academic physicians and physician-scientists, and to our reviewers, listed on pages 5-7, who have helped us ensure the highest standard of quality. We would also like to thank our donors for their generosity in potentiating this scholarly endeavor: the LSU Health Shreveport Chancellor's Office, LSU Health Shreveport Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, LSU Health Shreveport Alumni Foundation, LSU Health Shreveport Women's Club, and Shreveport Medical Society Alliance.

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REFERENCE

1. Harrison TR, Beeson PB, Thorn GW, Resnik WH, Wintrobe MM, eds. *Principles of Internal Medicine*. 1st ed. Philadelphia, PA: The Blakiston Company;1950.