EDITORS’ FOREWORD

Medical School is rife with daily struggles at times so stressful that we future physicians become engulfed within our studies. Despite this, over 20 students have decided to share their perspective on medicine in this year’s edition of Quill & Scope. Inside this edition is a compilation of commentaries on domestic and international medical issues, health care policy, and community health issues. Equally supporting this edition is original poetry and artwork centered on the themes of a medical student’s life. Lastly, abstracts of original research performed by members of our student body round out the 2009 publication. Overall, this year’s contents and its diversity exemplify the dedication of NYMC students to learning and contributing to medicine outside the classroom.

However, the second edition of Quill & Scope represents more than a repeat endeavor of publishing the thoughts, opinions, and artwork of NYMC medical students; it is a statement of permanence. The focus on this year’s edition was centered on the development of a framework for continuity of the Journal’s operations. To achieve this end, we improved upon funding, faculty involvement, formalization of submission review and feedback, online access, search engine indexing, distribution, and expansion of student involvement. We are proud to highlight some of our accomplishments below.

Strengthening the academic medical environment by providing an avenue for students to publish their work continues to be the NYMC student medical journal’s foremost purpose. To this end, an internal peer review system was instated beginning with this year’s edition. Each submitted article is reviewed twice: by a student and a faculty member. A staff editor then compiles these reviews and returns them to the author with comments. The revised submission is then reconsidered for acceptance to the Journal. This new structure serves three purposes: quality enhancement, increased student and faculty involvement, and preparation for eventual submission to the US National Library of Medicine’s PubMed service for indexing.

The inaugural edition of the Journal was widely distributed and well received. 1500 copies of Quill & Scope were printed, and distributed to all students in the four matriculated classes as well as the incoming class of 2012. Remaining copies were distributed to the Board of Trustees, deans, alumni, and both clinical and basic science faculty and department chairs. In addition, copies are on reserve in the NYMC library, a collection that will grow annually.

In an effort to enhance distribution and visibility, the Journal has also been published on the new Quill & Scope web site: http://www.nymc.edu/Clubs/quill_and_scope/index.htm. Online publication and article indexing have made Quill & Scope articles searchable by Google Scholar. This marks an important step in establishing Quill & Scope as a part of the academic medical community.

The inaugural edition had a core staff of only two students along with assistance from a variety of faculty and administration. This year, the student staff has expanded to 17 and the faculty staff to five. Future iterations will solidify the foundational members while expanding the editorial staff. In this light we are proud to introduce additions to next year’s editorial board: Annabelle Teng, Dennis Toy, and James Naples. Their attention to detail has helped establish the professionalism of this journal. With their voices on the board, they will be sure to drive future journal visions and successes.

Perhaps the most important challenge of this year was to identify two students with the leadership and enthusiasm to build upon this year’s edition as well as incorporate the Quill & Scope tradition into the incoming class of 2013. The passion, organization, creativity, and innovation possessed by Ed Hurley and Jenny Lam, next year’s Editors-in-Chief, will surely accomplish this task.

As this Journal becomes an increasingly customary piece of the NYMC culture we look forward to watching it grow. Hopefully future collections of peer-reviewed student literature, artwork, and research will exemplify our mission to provide a platform for students to explore their interests and develop their skills for a career in academic medicine.

Christine Capone, Editor-in-Chief
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