

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Uniting a Community

A little over a year ago two medical students decided this community should have a scientific journal. This could be a venue, they thought, for researchers to publish their work; for students to participate in the editorial process of scientific publication; for community members to learn about the work being done in other departments and other labs. This idea landed on incredibly fertile soil. Since then many students and faculty have joined together to bring you what you now hold in your hands. Physicians and scientists wrote most of the articles. Established experts peer-reviewed the content. This is no mere student journal. It contains significant work that deserves publication, evidenced by the fact that not every submission passed peer-review.

But make no mistake — the beating heart of this journal is student energy and student drive. At every stage of development, from canvassing for submissions to building and managing the peer-review process to deciding what article types and columns to solicit, this journal has been the result of student initiative.

And, as with any student endeavor, success has only been possible thanks to selfless, generous mentorship. Committed faculty spent many unreimbursed hours offering guidance, rolling up their sleeves and joining students in the trenches. The administration's stout support allowed the journal to germinate beyond conception. Established researchers and authors trusted students to publish their work and their words.

Many departments contributed funding so that we might print a physical copy of the first issue.

This journal is therefore a full-throated expression of the vibrancy of the Wake Forest community. Its purpose is to provide a vehicle for the publication of scientific work of high merit as well as other articles that are of educational and/or communal value. Within you will find original science, peer-reviewed by experts to assure quality; perspectives on issues of current import such as electronic cigarettes and untested Ebola vaccines; clinical challenge cases designed to engage and inform; connections to the past and listings of opportunities to participate in the future.

Look to these pages to learn some of the good work being done by your colleagues. Reach out to them. Challenge them. Collaborate with them. This publication is proof of the vitality found here; proof that dedicated mentorship is offered every day for the sole reward of watching students grow; proof that students aspire to engage in the civic life of the institution; proof that together we can do much more than we can alone.

There are many projects worth sharing, many articles worth writing, much good science to do and good medicine to practice. We do it best when we do it together. But, of course, that's the whole point.

Welcome to the *Wake Forest Journal of Science & Medicine*.

— Aaron Winkler
3rd year medical student
Co-Founder and Co-Editor in Chief