



## Letter from the Editor:

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**I**t is with great pleasure that I present the third issue of The Free Clinic Research Collective (FCRC), a peer-reviewed open access journal of The Medical Student Press. Over the last year, our committed team has worked diligently to prepare this very exciting issue, and we are honored to present our final product.

The FCRC's mission is to heighten awareness of student-run free clinics across the nation and their power to positively impact health care for the underserved. Given the increasing challenges that medically underserved populations face regarding access to health care, we feel that it is crucial to advocate for the role of student-run free clinics in providing healthcare to urban populations. To this end, our aim is to establish a national platform to facilitate the conversation on the role of student run clinics in the healthcare community.

The FCRC has grown impressively since its inception three years ago. I am proud to present six original research pieces, three brief communications, and two reflection narratives that are the culmination of the concerted efforts of medical students and residents from all over the country. These pieces cover a wide range of topics relevant to the healthcare that free clinics can offer, while also giving medical students a voice with which to impact future development of student-run free clinics. As reflected in this issue, we hope to provide insight into the successes, humanistic experiences and operational workflow surrounding student-run free clinics.



Each issue of the FCRC would not be possible without the enthusiastic efforts of our entire team. Every included piece has gone through an extensive peer-review process and thorough editing by the editorial staff and authors. I would like to extend sincere thanks to our peer editors, section editors, and the entire MSPress team for their unrelenting dedication and hard work towards putting together this issue. Each team member has been invaluable due to his or her passion for the overarching FCRC mission. Special thanks to Mica Esquenazi, MSPress Co-Founder, Pooja Karukonda, MSPress Editor-in-Chief, Jonathan Cohen, MSPress Executive Editor, and Anna Artymowicz, MSPress Graphic Design Associate Editor, for their guidance, support, and contributions to this issue.

As the FCRC continues to grow, a number of student-run free clinics have been inaugurated, many of which have been featured in our publications. It is my hope for the FCRC to continue improving awareness of the obstacles involved in promoting healthcare for all, such as socioeconomic disparities, cultural barriers, and multi-disciplinary healthcare. I have truly enjoyed being a part of the FCRC initiative, and look forward to what our future holds in store. I encourage all free clinic volunteers to share their experiences with us in the form of research articles, viewpoint reflection narratives, and brief communications and contribute to our future FCRC issues.

Sincerely,

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