

Welcome to the fifth volume of the *Free Clinic Research Collective*

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One of the most universally exciting shared experiences in medical school is stepping into the shoes of a physician in a student-run free clinic for the first time. Participation as a free clinic volunteer not only

strengthens a budding physician's professional identity but also bridges our knowledge of medicine from book to bedside. It is through this special endeavor that we can discover and develop our very own style for treating patients and reminds us of the heart of service inherent to our future occupation.

It is with great joy that I present the fifth volume of the *Free Clinic Research Collective*, a peer-reviewed, open-access journal that serves as a platform for sharing the critical thought and humanistic values of medical students and free clinic volunteers, aiming to present these ideas in an approachable way. Our publication has grown considerably over the past few years and has an exciting future in continuing to record the activities, reflections, and innovations in the longstanding tradition of free clinics.

In this year's issue of the *Free Clinic Research Collective*, we tell the story of humanism and service through the eyes of medical student volunteers across the country, as well as internationally. Through our collection of

articles, I hope that you can appreciate the common feelings and sentiments that connect us all and revel in the exciting possibilities currently arising in the realm of free clinics.

I strongly encourage you to read through the personal experiences and insight of medical students in various stages of their journeys and highly recommend reading any of the original pieces we have showcased in this issue.

I would like to thank all of the authors who contributed to this issue of the *Free Clinic Research Collective*, as well as our entire team. This issue is a culmination of our team's commitment and dedication to review and edit the numerous, high quality submissions that we received. In particular, thank you to the peer reviewers below who contributed to this issue:

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Lastly, I encourage comments and feedback, as we continue to aspire to bring you the best of the *Free Clinic Research Collective*.

Samantha Nguyen is the Associate Editor of the *Free Clinic Research Collective* and member of the executive team at *The MSPress*.