


*Dear reader:*

The latest issue of the Medical Student Press Journal is finally here! I am very excited to share our most recent work with you. Here, we put forth a collection of essays, artwork, and original research articles that highlights the strength, resilience, and compassion of the medical student community. In many of the featured work, the submissions speak to medical students' honesty and sensitivity as learners and future healthcare providers.

The diverse work featured in this issue celebrates the colorful and unexpected experiences that have imparted meaning to the lives of medical students across the country. In this issue, for example, a drawing formed by pencil and paper underscores the humanity of medicine and depicts a simple, yet elegant grasp of the hand. An author shares her personal experiences and invites us to reflect on the role of health disparities in our care for the deaf community. Another reflective piece challenges the idealized representation of the human body. An original research article quantitatively assesses the relationship between volunteering at a free clinic and performance on clinical skills exams. Through all of these works, we humbly seek to understand our patients better, to care for them with empathy, and to learn how to treat them effectively.

I am constantly impressed by the variety and quality of work submitted to the Medical Student Press Journal. I would also like to thank all the authors, editors, and reviewers that have contributed to the creation of this issue. It is my pleasure to share our authors' reflections, insights, and discoveries and I hope you will enjoy going through our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen Nguyen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eileen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nguyen".

Eileen Nguyen  
Medical Student Press, Associate Editor

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