

studentBMJ – An International Magazine for Medical Students

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Do you want to read about experiences of medical students in other countries? Do you have an opinion about medical education in your country that you want to share? Do you want to write about something medical that is important to you? Or do you want to learn more about contentious health related issues and career pathways? If the answer is yes to any of the above questions, you might like to know more about *studentBMJ*.

studentBMJ is a monthly international medical magazine for students with an interest in medicine available both in paper format and free at: www.studentbmj.com. The BMJ Publishing Group – which also publishes its parent journal the BMJ - launched the magazine over 10 years ago to connect with medical students around the world. And with one hundred student advisers representing every continent (with the exception of Antarctica!), authors from lots of different countries and free access to the content on the web, *studentBMJ* tries to keep in touch with the international medical student community.

The journal is compiled by a full time student editor - a medical student or newly qualified doctor - who takes a year out from studying to work on the magazine from its headquarters in London, UK. Part of their job is make sure the content is 'student-friendly' and communicate with the student advisers from various medical schools throughout the world, who act as the eyes and ears of medical students in their country helping to select articles and recommending topics.

But how do you get involved in the *studentBMJ*? One way is by writing articles for the magazine. Whilst some articles are commissioned – notably education and editorials - there is plenty of scope for any medical student, doctor, or budding journalist to write as long as the subject of the article is relevant to medical students in some way. The *studentBMJ* is split into sections focusing on different aspects on the life, education and career of medical students.

Editorials

Editorials are articles that discuss hot topics or

important issues in medicine and medical education. These are usually written by an expert or a medical students and an expert.

News

News articles report new events or happenings which are relevant to international medical students. Anyone can write these, but there are specific rules about writing news stories. You can find out more at: www.studentbmj.com

Education

Education articles are meant to teach students things that they will need during their undergraduate studies, in their exams and in their early years as doctors. *studentBMJ* has a policy of trying not to publish material that students can just find in standard text books. Education articles should either be about subjects not well covered in academic books, or if about commonly covered subjects then the article should provide a new way of learning about it. If students want to write for this section, they must find an expert to co-author the article with them.

Careers

Careers is a section dedicated to medical careers, both undergraduate studies and specialties after you qualify. Careers contains a wide range of careers type advice ranging from getting ahead in a certain specialty to taking time out of your studies and personal development. It also focuses on problems that medics face including illness, medico-legal matters, and time management.

Another type of article that appears in this section are profiles, which are often written by medical students. These articles take a look at the careers of doctors and medical students and are normally based around an interview with the subject. However, the article is more than a catalogue of achievements - they review reasons for decisions they have made, any regrets or disappointments, and most importantly, some advice for others.

Life

Life articles are about anything to do with medicine and being a medical student so the scope of these is enormous. Articles can cover special projects, (such as working in a refugee camp), alternative/eccentric subjects which usually have some sort of medical link, (such as radical medical innovations), general life experiences and student issues or problems (such as studying for exams), or political topics (such as describing or critiquing a health care system) – the list is endless.

Rapid responses

Rapid responses are exactly what they say – they are responses to something previously published in *studentBMJ*. They are submitted as rapid responses to the relevant article or letter, through the response system on the website: www.studentbmj.com

Reviews

The Reviews section covers a number of different articles, including product reviews and viewpoints. A review is an article that critically appraises a book, CDROM, film, audio CD, art or museum exhibition, theatre play, or other form of media, which has some sort of link to medicine or medical students.

Also in this section, is ‘what’s on the web’, an article dedicated to reviewing the websites about certain subjects and usually about five different sites are covered. For example, past reviews have included health news, choosing your specialty, and medical mistakes.

Viewpoint

These articles are to allow medical students to express their point of view on any issues relevant to medical students. These articles may be a rant about something medical students think is wrong or unfair - no matter how controversial - or they may recount an experience of something.

Minerva

Minerva is a section where you can read snippets of information about quirky reports, which you may not have seen in the global medical press or is relevant to medical students. Medical students send in articles and studies that they think are suitable for this section.

If you don’t know where to start, visit www.studentbmj.com for information about how to write articles, contact details of the *studentBMJ* team and examples of the sorts of things that are published. Here you’ll also find out about consent and license for publication, and payment rates.

If you want to write for the *studentBMJ*, please contact us.

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