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Welcome! This is the beginning of what we hope will be a long lasting tradition at the Faculty of Medicine Colombo. The Student Medical Journal is a student run journal which aims to provide an inclusive vehicle for students to communicate current medical research, opinions and thoughts to other students and faculty members.

Many students are interested in research. However they find it difficult to publish their work in professional journals. This journal aims to fill that void. The experience of preparing an article for a medical journal will enhance a student's critical thinking, analytical and writing skills, facilitating their professional development. We believe that a journal of this nature would encourage students to participate in research, which is a key element in the development of a graduate capable of promoting the advancement of medical science.

We feel it is important not just to focus on student research, but also be a forum for students to share their experiences through reviews, essays and letters to the editor. We also aim to give an insight into the lives of distinguished medical professionals which we believe will be both interesting and inspiring for the students.

This journal was the brain-child of Dr. G.R. Constantine, was initiated by Dr. Indika Karunathilake, Dr. Kishara Gunaratne and Dr. Prabodhana Ranaweera and is now a reality due to the untiring efforts of our journal committee.

We also take this opportunity to thank the members of the academic staff who reviewed the research papers and took trouble to suggest improvements to the articles published in this Journal.

So, welcome! We hope you enjoy the first issue.

*Nimali Widhanapathirana*

*Harshima Wijyaratne*

*Ashwini de Abrew*