

editor's choice

The future's bright, the future's global

This month sees my last issue of *studentBMJ* in the editor's seat, and the year has seen a lot of changes. The journal has been redesigned; a new website has been launched. Now, as *studentBMJ* approaches 10 years old, it is set to evolve. It's time to go global. Why do this?

Medicine is changing as borders come down and the importance of international cooperation rises to the forefront. As medical students we are key in these changes. In the next few years we will be the practising clinicians at the frontline. It is imperative that our education addresses that fact. We need to be equipped for this bright new future. *studentBMJ* aims to fill the massive gap that exists in our medical learning, by becoming more global and reaching more students than ever before.

This month's editorial on access to medicines (p 260) reflects this. **Nathan Ford** discusses the problems of vast portions of the world's population who are suffering because they can't get the drugs they need, and what can be done to help. The importance of understanding medicine globally is further highlighted in **Lilijana Mikuletic's** telling tale of what she learnt about healthcare for Aborigines when she visited the Pilbara region of northwestern Australia.

Of course, broadening our knowledge isn't just about being more international. This month we look at the uses of "creepy crawlies" medicine, a field that we shouldn't just ignore. Such alternative therapies can be useful, and we should be more open minded about them. **Samena Chaudhry** and **Ardeshir Bayat** explain the use of medicinal maggots and leeches on p 275. We also have a quiz on maggot medicine on p 271.

Medical students and junior doctors often view neurology as the worst of all specialties. We are apprehensive of the subject as a whole, but especially the clinical exam. Is this because we are unable to cope with it? Maybe we are ignoring it as a specialty or are prejudging it as too difficult. Perhaps it's because it isn't taught well enough, says **Matthew Menken** (p 262).

studentBMJ keeps on getting better and better and I'm sure it will continue to do so for years to come. It's been a fun year. Farewell.



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Front cover: Eye of Science/Science Photo Library

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Published by the proprietors, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR

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