Letter from the Editor in Chief



Angela Theresa Zuffo Yabrude

Editor in Chief Brazilian Medical Students

Dear reader,

Research is our voice. It is a tool for us to appropriate, test, disseminate, through empirical evidence, findings in which we try to answer something that is still unknown or uncertain. As the editor-in-chief of the **Brazilian Medical Students Journal** (BMS Journal) - a journal led by medical students, and also the National Director of Publication, Research and Extension of the International Federation of Medical Association of Brazil (IFMSA Brazil), it is mine mandate to represent, through policies, editorial processes and decisions, not only what I think is appropriate, but also to base the plurality of views in which the editorial board, reviewers, authors, students, financiers, patients and other stakeholders are involved, as well as such as alignment with the recommendations of the International Committee of Journal Medical Editors (ICMJE) and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Nevertheless, I assume as an intrinsic role the potential influence on other journals and the academic ecosystem.

Thus, seeking to give a voice and empower students, professionals, and health residents, I present to you the reformulated version of the BMS Journal - whose fundamental value is the dissemination of the best evidence available through open and transparent science, and social responsibility in research, which is reflected in its new editorial policies and processes, as well as the research axes implemented. The academic mentoring process for editors-in-chief was also added, in which I am mentored by Prof. Dr. Lucas Helal. In particular, I highlight the alignment of the BMS Journal with thematic axes aimed at transparency in research and open science, as well as Global Health, Medical Education and Patient Care.

From then on, the BMS submission process will work via an electronic platform based on metadata and indexing, as well as a website dedicated to it by the OPJ system (Open Journal System - https://bms.ifmsabrazil.org/index.php/bms), formatted for open access journals. BMS will operate through ISSN 2675-1542.

Structural changes (editorial board organization chart) as well as editorial processes were carried out to make the procedures as transparent as possible and in the most intelligible way for prospective authors. For example, the need to report potential conflicts of interest, prospective records for randomized controlled trials and systematic reviews, equity policies, among others. Regarding the experimental designs accepted by BMS, in addition to traditional designs, teaching experience, research and extension reports will be accepted, since it is a journal led by students. In addition, I will undertake all my efforts, together with my editorial board, reviewers, and mentor, in the search for the best evidence available to both the consumer and the researcher, never deviating from any principle of scientific integrity - a value that will be audited iteratively throughout of my mandate within the BMS itself.

Finally, I emphasize that each of us, students, and health professionals, are agents in the process of changing the state of knowledge. Editors play an important role in the scientific ecosystem, as they end up being, even today, great gatekeepers of the available evidence. I would like to make it clear to you, the reader, that I am very aware of the competencies intrinsic to an editor-in-chief and that I will carry them with me in an ingrained manner, reflected by the way BMS can operate - both nationally and globally.

I invite you to make the best use of the BMS Journal as you see fit - whether in publishing your academic papers, consulting what is published, or even in post-publication feedback. The sharing of experiences, empirical or anecdotal, is valid and essential and with a good part of these values, BMS will make decisions and positions. I believe that by changing behavior in the ecosystem, we impact the way research is done today - a serious problem to be observed -, and BMS tries to be one more piece among the great puzzle embarked on changing the ecosystem, especially by editorial policies and processes.

Thus, I would like to leave the invitation to you, the reader, to publish your studies and research in Brazilian Medical Students Journal, which directly reflect the knowledge arising from your hypotheses and your positions as professionals and students. I believe that through research we generate science, and, above all, we generate changes, and BMS is the spotlight for this scenario.

Kind regardas,
Angela Theresa Zuffo Yabrude
Editor in Chief Brazilian Medical Students Journal

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