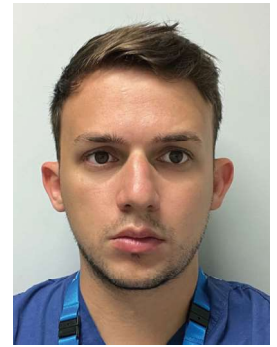


Student editorial



Dear Reader

I have kindly been invited by Ms Ahmed to write the student editorial. I hope all of our readers have thoroughly enjoyed the warm weather over the summer, as I have. Although the high temperatures were enjoyable, it has left me worried about the increasing global temperatures. Global warming is real, and it is here! On 19th July 2022, the United Kingdom (UK) reached a new record with a temperature of 40.3°C. Topping the previous record of 2019. I think we all need to start thinking about the consequences of our individual actions on our climate and the subsequent pressures on the National Health Service (NHS). We have to consider new strategies to become more environmentally friendly.

On the topic of high temperatures; I have written the fast-bleeped article about a pyrexial child, based around “exposure” in the ABCDE assessment. I was inspired to write this during a taster week observing the impressive paediatric critical care retrieval service. I witnessed the amazing work spent in caring for our smallest, critically unwell patients.

As the student editor for the journal, I feel obliged to write about a problem directly affecting medical students. As many of you will know, the #LiveableNHSBursary campaign is in full swing, aiming to raise awareness of the crippling conditions some medical students are facing in their fifth and sixth year of study. This is because, after four years of undergraduate studying, the funding changes and we receive nearly 50% less than what we did previously. A recent survey by the British Medical Association (BMA) revealed that 53.6% of UK medical students say they must work during term time to pay their rent, food, and electricity bills. The survey also found that 73.1% of those saying this, confirm this adversely affects their ability to study. The BMA have urged the government to reconsider the means-testing process for the NHS bursary to give medical students more financial security. I think this is an important issue we should all be aware of, because, as the NHS enters a staffing crisis, we really need to be looking after our future junior doctors.

Alongside medical students, post-graduate trainee doctors are also gaining momentum with upcoming strikes being labelled as “inevitable” by the new BMA chair, Professor Phillip Banfield. It is difficult to predict the outcome of such situation, but the whispers about the prospects of strikes are slowly becoming louder. I would move on to discussing consultant’s pension schemes, and the implication of this on the work force but I think the above is enough politics for one editorial! Alas, I believe we are going to be seeing many changes in the approaching months.

The MBMJ continues to welcome articles from our local and regional academic community. I have received many queries about the submission process recently and I remind everyone of the online portal.

Hoping for better days

Guilherme Movio, BSc Urgent and Emergency Medicine, Year 5 Medical Student

2023: THE BICENTENARY OF THE LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE MEDICAL BOOK CLUB

Established on 11th November 1823, at a meeting of clinicians in the Royal Oak public house, the Lancaster Medical Book Club (recently renamed the Lancaster and Morecambe Medical Book Club or LMMBC) is one of the oldest surviving provincial medical societies in England. Thanks to current President Dr Andy Gallagher, I have recently had the privilege of reading the original minute book of the Book Club. Purchased for the cost of 5 shillings, this book was one of the first 5 books purchased by the Book club on November 17th 1823, the others being: Chevalier’s Lectures (cost 12 shillings); Cooke’s Treatise on Nervous Diseases (cost £1 and 4 shillings); Haden’s Formulary (cost 4 shillings and 6 pence) and Good’s Nosology (cost £1 and 1 shilling).

Very few medical organisations have survived for 200 years so the Book Club committee are organising a number of special events to mark this achievement. This will include a ‘Book Club Bicentenary’ edition of the Morecambe Bay Medical Journal in spring 2023. As guest editor of the edition, I welcome any suitable articles that readers may wish to submit for inclusion in this edition. Ideally the article should relate to the Book Club or its members or, at least, be relevant to our local medical heritage.

I am hoping to include a feature celebrating the first female President of the Book Club, namely Dr Elizabeth B Dowell, who was President in 1952 and who, alongside her husband, was also an outstanding GP in Bentham. I am currently searching for a photograph of Elizabeth to accompany the article so please contact me on bryan.rhodes@mbht.nhs.uk if you can help with this request.

The Book Club continues to welcome new members and, although the society no longer purchases medical books on behalf of members, it continues to organise a varied and educational programme of events for a miniscule annual fee. For membership enquiries please contact Andy Gallagher on argallagher@btinternet.com