

a structured, hands-on editorial experience through which they will learn about manuscript review, publishing ethics, editorial decision-making, and academic writing.

The program is currently under development and once launched, it will be among the first of its kind, offering students a guided and purposeful entry into academic publishing. This initiative reflects *WMJ*'s strong commitment to cultivating scholarly curiosity, mentorship, and academic excellence from the earliest stages of medical education.

### Why This Work Matters

At a time when many journals face declining reviewer pools and an aging editorial workforce, *WMJ* is investing in a sustainable future by building a culture of mentorship, scholarship, and leadership development. Through the fellowship and upcoming internship, *WMJ* is helping shape a generation of clinicians who understand the value of rigorous peer review, the power of the written word, and the responsibility that comes with shaping medical knowledge.

These initiatives signal that the journal is not merely a passive repository of information,

it is an active, evolving, and inclusive learning community. *WMJ* is becoming a model for how regional journals can thrive—not only through high-quality content but by nurturing the people who create, curate, and communicate it.

### Looking Ahead

As *WMJ* continues to evolve, it remains steadfast in its mission to advance health care in Wisconsin and beyond. These programs reaffirm our commitment to elevating scholarship, expanding opportunity, and empowering the next generation in medicine.

We are deeply grateful to the community that makes this work possible. Our heartfelt thanks go to the authors who share their research and insights, the peer reviewers who uphold our standards with rigor and thoughtfulness, the editorial board members who offer vision and guidance, and the publishing board whose steadfast support sustains our operations and growth. Each plays a critical role in helping *WMJ* fulfill its mission. Together, we are not only publishing a journal—we are building a legacy.



“Blooming Perspectives”

### About the Artist

Toan Vu was born in Vietnam and was raised in Columbia, Missouri. He is currently a medical student at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. With a passion for art, he says he paints to express creativity, reflect on his identity, and capture the world around him.

## *WMJ* names two new deputy editors

The Publishing Board for the *Wisconsin Medical Journal (WMJ)* has named two new deputy editors: Sanjay Bhandari, MD, MS, and Shanthi Narla, MD. They will serve three-year terms, effective immediately.

Dr Bhandari is an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is an academic hospitalist and also serves as director of the hospital medicine fellowship. He has extensive editorial experience, having authored two book chapters, published over 50 peer-reviewed manuscripts, and served as a peer reviewer for 10 academic journals.

Dr Bhandari earned his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from Kathmandu University in Nepal and completed his residency in internal medicine at Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. He also holds a master's degree in clinical and translational science

from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is board certified in internal medicine and is a member the Society of Hospital Medicine, and the American College of Physicians.

Dr Narla is an assistant professor of dermatology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where she also serves as director of dermatology medical student research and director of adult clinical trials in the Department of Dermatology. She has published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles, abstracts, and book chapters, and has also served as a manuscript reviewer.

Dr Narla is a graduate of the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. She completed an internship in internal medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a fellowship in dermatology clinical trials at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, prior to completing her residency in dermatology at St. Luke's University Health System in Easton,

Pennsylvania. She is board certified in dermatology and is a member of the American Academy of Dermatology, Wisconsin Dermatological Society, and Women's Dermatological Society.

“Our previous deputy editor, Robert Treat, was a vital member of our editorial team. When he announced his decision to step down, we knew we had big shoes to fill. Fortunately, we had not one, but two exceptional candidates,” said *WMJ* Editor-in-Chief Fahad Aziz, MD, MBA, CPE, FASN. “We were very impressed with their experience, commitment, and enthusiasm and are excited to welcome both of them to the *WMJ* team.”

Dr Bhandari and Dr Narla succeed Robert Treat, PhD, who stepped down after completing two three-year terms as deputy editor. Dr Treat is an associate professor of emergency medicine and the director of measurement and evaluation in the Office of Academic Affairs at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

advancing the art & science of medicine in the midwest

**WMJ**

*WMJ* (ISSN 2379-3961) is published through a collaboration between The Medical College of Wisconsin and The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. The mission of *WMJ* is to provide an opportunity to publish original research, case reports, review articles, and essays about current medical and public health issues.

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