

FOREWORD MESSAGE

*Editorial by Mr Dylan Farrugia, SCOME & SCORP Publications
Coordinator '23-'24*



In today's digital era, where information is readily accessible a few clicks away, the foundational role of science in medicine may sometimes be overlooked. The ease of finding quick answers has led to questions about the value of expertise. However, research and publishing, which are the cornerstones of science, offer more than just superficial answers available at one's fingertips.

While one might assume that medical education, with its extensive curriculum, may not be the ideal environment for fostering research skills, this is far from the truth. Developing the ability to ask pertinent questions and systematically investigate to find rational answers is a transferable skill essential for future medical professionals. The capacity to gather data and critically evaluate solutions is equally crucial.

The MMSA's student-run medical journals *Minima Medica*, and *Mind Maps*, for another year have provide students with perhaps their first opportunity to submit work and undergo a peer-review process. These platforms not only introduce students to professional academic endeavours but also ignite their interest in future research. This year's articles spanned diverse medical fields, from cardiology and psychiatric disorders to public health and neurodegenerative conditions, as well as chronic infection effects and ethical considerations in modern medicine. I hope these articles have not only sparked the authors' curiosity but also engage the readers. Research reveals not just what we know but also what remains to be discovered, inspiring us to continue our quest for knowledge for the betterment of humanity!

In my final remarks, I would like to express my gratitude to MMSA for entrusting me with the roles of publications coordinator for both SCOME and SCORP. Throughout this learning journey, I had the pleasure of collaborating with a dynamic group of enthusiastic, like-minded individuals. Without their contributions, this endeavour would not have been possible. Special thanks to SCOME and SCORP officers Martha Schembri and Elyssa German for their unwavering support, as well as assistants Elisa Psaila and Timothy Borg. I also extend my appreciation to the PR team, Denise Galdes, Keith Calleja, Leah Tanti, and Rohanne Spiteri for their assistance with posters and publication layout. Dr. Claude Julien Bajda deserves recognition serving as editor

for Mind Maps. My heartfelt thanks to the peer reviewers who generously provided feedback to the students who submitted articles to this year's Minima Medica edition, namely Prof. Chamaine Gauci, Dr. Paul Herrera, Prof. Pierre Mallia, and Dr. Rachel-Anne Xuereb. Lastly, a big thank you to the main contributors of this project who out of their own initiative, dedicated time and effort to write and submit articles for this year's editions of Minima Medica and Mind Maps: Erica Busuttil, Peter Calleja, Michaela Fenech, Karl Livori, Mireille Pace, Alan Sultana, Katya Saliba, and Ruby Sciriha Camilleri.

Dylan Farrugia

SCOME & SCORP Publications Coordinator 2023-2024