

FOREWORD MESSAGE

Editorial by Dr Claude Julien Bajada, Mind Maps Editor '24



In this second edition of the Mind Maps journal, we enhance our commitment to academic rigour by introducing a peer review process that includes both an academic and two student reviewers for each article. This approach not only diversifies the evaluation but also provides a practical learning experience in peer review. Featured in this issue are comprehensive reviews of Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder in clinical practice and the roles of astrocytes in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases.

As medical students progress in their studies, the common advice is to “publish articles” to bolster prospects for specialty training programs. While publishing is a valuable milestone, it represents just one facet of the extensive scientific endeavour. Research encompasses the formulation of pertinent questions, mastery of relevant methodologies, integration of findings into the existing body of knowledge, execution of experiments, and ultimately, the dissemination of results. Balancing this intricate process with medical education is challenging. However, our faculty supports numerous research groups involved in every stage of this cycle, providing students with opportunities to engage directly with cutting-edge scientific work. To further enhance this engagement, we encourage the formation of student-led societies that can act as conduits between students and research groups, fostering a community of collaboration and innovation.

The faculty has also recently introduced an intercalated year designed specifically to nurture these crucial research skills. This addition to our curriculum is tailored to immerse students in statistical analysis, and laboratory techniques; skills that are becoming increasingly vital as the landscape of medicine evolves.

True medical expertise requires standing at the cutting-edge of knowledge, a position attainable only through active research participation. For future medical practitioners, the development of analytical skills is indispensable.

As you delve into the pages of Mind Maps, let it serve as a reminder of the pivotal role research plays in our collective pursuit of medical innovation and knowledge. Let this journal inspire you to explore, question, and contribute to the medical field, shaping your future and that of global health.

Dr Claude Julien Bajada

Mind Maps Editor