

# Editorial

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## DEAR WRITER, PLEASE READ THE AUTHOR GUIDELINES

Welcome to the fifth issue of The British Student Doctor, and the first of 2019. This is our third year of proudly publishing this journal, with the ethos of providing a platform to medical students to develop their critical appraisal and academic publishing skills through practical experience. The breadth and quality of the articles featured in this issue are a strong testament to our success in achieving this goal, and the ability of medical students to produce high quality outcomes in research and academic discourse.

The past three years have been a steep learning curve for the whole editorial team at The British Student Doctor, and a key component of that learning curve has been developing the way in which we deliver clear and constructive feedback to authors. A repeated issue that we have faced, however, is that often submissions are made to the journal without reference to our author guidelines. These guidelines, which are available on our website at the link below, are crucial reading for all writers wishing to publish in The BSDJ. More broadly, all academic journals will have published guidelines detailing their focus and scope, alongside suggested word counts and manuscript structure.

We wrote our author guidelines with clarity in mind, given that many writers who publish their work in The BSDJ are first time authors. The guidelines detail: the focus and scope of The British Student Doctor, the articles types that we publish alongside the section specific word, reference and figure limits and requirements for abstracts, our standard requirements for all sections which covers manuscript formatting, referencing, required cover page details including conflict of interest statements, and our requirements for copyright. Lastly, instructions on how to use our electronic article submission platform are described.

Before beginning to write your next article for *The British Student Doctor*, please read the guidelines and use them to structure your writing. In particular, the majority of articles submitted to the journal do not follow our required formatting for references (we have a detailed referencing guide to help you with this) and many are not uploaded with a completed copyright assignment form, which is necessary for all manuscripts before they can enter the peer review process. Ensuring that you follow the author guidelines, alongside the referencing and copyright instructions, will allow us to ensure that your manuscript is expedited swiftly through the peer review process, and hence that there is no delay in publication. Crucially, it will also save your editor's sanity!

As we progress into an increasingly complex health system, the focus on developing good medical leadership is one of the top priorities for the NHS. As such, we are pleased to feature a guest editorial by Peter Homa and Claire Lodge from the NHS Leadership Academy, on the importance of medical leadership. We also feature an article by Dr Samuel Tretheway and his colleagues on the challenges of identifying high quality complementary and alternative treatments, as they are often categorised into one broad category. Elliott Sharp and Keegan Curlewis, two medical students

from Brighton and Sussex Medical School, explore a similar challenge with assigning appropriate names within the specialty of general surgery.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of *The British Student Doctor*, and we look forward to publishing your work in our next issue in June.

*The author guidelines for all submissions to The British Student Doctor can be found at:*  
<https://www.bsdj.org.uk/author-guidelines>.

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