

Turning the page

I am honored and humbled to be considered as the next editor of the *BCMJ* by our association's Board of Directors. The previous editor, Dr David R. Richardson, dedicated the past 14 years to this position until his recent retirement from the *BCMJ*. I speak for myself and my fellow Editorial Board members when I say that he will be tremendously missed.

Dr Richardson, or DRR as you may know him from his signature, is a great leader. He infused the Board with humor, discipline, and an enduring inspiration to do our best for our readership. The work that happens behind the scenes at the *BCMJ* is enriching, educational, and fun, but it can also be detailed, arduous, and political. DRR took it all in stride. On behalf of the Editorial Board and *BCMJ* team members, I want to thank Dr Richardson for everything.

Every month Dr Richardson enlightened and entertained us with his editorials. Some were funny, like when he talked about an editor's frustration with endless abbreviations [*BCMJ* 2021;63:361-362], suggesting that the pronoun "he" was a more succinct option for referring to him than "PNME" ("picky, narrow-minded

editor"). Some were raw and vulnerable, like his 2021 "Holiday message" [*BCMJ* 2021;63:405], when he reflected on a year filled with hope, as well as devastation, as a result of COVID-19 and his wife's illness.

I had the pleasure of rereading DRR's editorials as I reflected on the idea of editorship. Even though medicine has evolved over his tenure, Dr Richardson's first editorial, "Self-delusion and self-care" [*BCMJ* 2008;50:433], still resonates. Writing about his failed attempt at self-diagnosis of abdominal pain, DRR said, "The moral of this editorial is not the obvious one (that I am an idiot), but that as physicians we don't take very good care of ourselves, or for that matter each other. We give patients advice about stress management, lifestyle changes, counseling, addiction, mental health, and more, but then ignore our own advice. I wonder how many of you even have your own family physician." To me this demonstrates that either physician health is a chronic problem or Dr Richardson was ahead of his time. I think both are true. Today, perhaps even more so than in 2008, physicians are in crisis. Family physicians are in great shortage and those who are working are often overburdened, underpaid, and at risk of burnout. COVID-19 has taxed us all, and although adrenaline and camaraderie may have sustained us through waves one, two, and three, we are now facing another wave (seven? I've lost count) and we're tired. The *BCMJ* is our common ground, where we can converse, share knowledge, and discuss our experiences in the varied health care settings of this beautiful province.

The *BCMJ* was first published in 1959, evolving from its predecessor, the *Vancouver Medical Association Bulletin*, which originated in 1924 and was edited by Dr J.M. Pearson.

The *BCMJ* is the official publication of Doctors of BC and, as stated nearly 100 years ago, still aims to "strengthen the ideals of unity and organization among members of the profession." We are also the only provincial medical journal in Canada. Since its inception, the *BCMJ*

has had only six editors: Dr Jack MacDermot, Dr Sid Hobbs, Dr A.F. Hardyment, Dr W.A. Dodd, Dr James A. Wilson, and Dr David R. Richardson. As we prepare to turn the page at the *BCMJ*, I am proud to say that, if appointed, I will be the first woman to hold the position. Building on the hard work and dedication of my

predecessors, I hope to expand on the *BCMJ*'s legacy of representing our readership, which is increasingly diverse and skilled. We at the journal want to hear your voices! So please, send us your studies, share your stories, be a part of the conversation. We're stronger when we help and support each other.

With immense gratitude, I will end by recognizing Dr Richardson again and thanking him for his support and guidance. We already miss you and wish you the very best. ■

—Caitlin Dunne, MD
Acting editor

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Dr David R. Richardson, outgoing editor of the *BCMJ*.

D1

Let me start by saying that he will cringe when he reads this. He has a hard time hearing nice things said about him, but as hard as I tried, I couldn't think of one bad thing to say about the outgoing editor of the *BCMJ*—Dr David Richardson, Dave, DRR, D1. He is known by multiple variations of his name.

Dr David Richardson is an outstanding family physician to many fortunate patients. He is known by his patients to be caring, compassionate, and always punctual. In his usual self-deprecating fashion, Dave describes himself as being anal about time. In September 2008 the outgoing editor of the *BCMJ* at the time, Dr Jim Wilson, said it best when he described Dave, the incoming editor, as “a well-rounded, highly energetic, very intelligent, committed physician” with a “unique brand of humor.”

Dave is known to his friends and colleagues as one of the good guys. He is dependable and wise. He is very quick-witted. He is a legend in our medical community, known for his sharp sense of humor. He can also take a joke when one is played on him, but playing a joke on Dave comes with significant risk of being the recipient of one of *his* legendary practical jokes in return. He is a legend and the consummate practical joker.

I was recently told a story about when Dave worked in the emergency department of our hospital. He had to remove a nail from a patient's leg, which had been embedded in the bone from a nail gun. After successfully freeing the nail, using a variety of the patient's own tools in the process, he emerged from the cubicle brandishing a claw hammer and an axe. He looked around at the other patients in the area and said, “Next?”

Years ago, Dave blessed me with a classic piece of his wit. After introducing my new resident to him, Dave said to me with a straight face, “Dr Chapman, I didn't know that they were allowing you residents again since the incident!” My resident, who didn't know Dave and his sense of humor, looked like the proverbial deer in the headlights.

DRR has authored approximately 150 editorials for the *BCMJ* (we used to sign our editorials with our initials). He was appointed editor in 2008 by the outgoing editor, Dr Jim Wilson, as was the custom in those days. DRR modernized the process midway through his term by putting in place a selection process for the new editor, and it is through this process that Dr Caitlin Dunne was nominated as the next editor of the journal. During his tenure, DRR not only shaped the Editorial Board into being more diverse and representative of our readership, but also strengthened its healthy and respectful culture. I don't mean to suggest that it was previously unhealthy or lacked respect, but I want to underline how comfortable it has been under his watch to be a member of the Editorial Board. As acting editor of the *BCMJ* for the past few months, I have tried to emulate DRR's sense of respect and love for our Editorial Board colleagues, *BCMJ* staff, and readers.


For the last 4 years, there have been three Davids/Daves on the Editorial Board. To avoid confusion, D1 assigned call signs to the Davids/Daves. As editor and longest-serving member of the Editorial Board, he, of course, became D1. He called me D2, and when Dr David Esler joined the Editorial Board in 2018, he became D3. Even though D1 has retired from the Editorial Board, the remaining Davids/Daves are still referred to in our meetings as D2 and D3. Out of respect and love for our outgoing editor, the Editorial Board decided to retire Dr Richardson's number—there will only ever be one D1.

Thank you, Dave, for your wisdom, wit, and friendship. We will miss you on the Editorial Board. I look forward to continuing our friendship in the years ahead.

—David B. Chapman, MBChB



Dr Richardson, never afraid to get his hands dirty.




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Business Pathways introduces HR toolkit to help physicians hire, onboard office staff

Business Pathways is a new program from Doctors of BC dedicated to helping members navigate the operational side of running a practice—a one-stop shop to access targeted resources based on practice needs during all stages of a medical career.

Read the article: bcmj.org/news/business-pathways-introduces-hr-toolkit-help-physicians-hire-onboard-office-staff



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