

Guest Editorial

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REFERENCES

CONVERSATION IS ESSENTIAL IN PUBLISHING

Correspondence, is an important section of *The British Student Doctor*. Discussion is vital in academia, not only because it encourages additional insight, but as it also allows for the critique and post-publication peer review of research work, which is an essential component of the scientific process. Additionally, by introducing novel ideas and perspectives, letters to the editor have the potential to highlight currently overlooked issues or innovations at an early stage. *Correspondence* aims to provide students with the platform to engage in discourse, and we warmly welcome your contributions. Submissions to the *Correspondence* section are invited regardless of research background. As such, this section of the journal is an ideal starting point for those with little or no previous publishing experience. Experienced authors, also, are encouraged to share knowledge and insight with readers; many of whom are in their formative years of medical education. Exposure to such insight at this stage has the potential to influence a lifelong career.

In this issue, *Correspondence* includes a response from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) to Peter Edwards' article '*Why I am pursuing a career in general practice*', which was published in our inaugural January issue. (1) This piece highlights how response to articles provide readers with further information about past publications. Building on Dr Edwards' original article, the RCGP elaborates on current uncertainty facing general practice. Despite the critical importance of GPs in bolstering an increasingly challenged NHS, students wishing to enter the profession face stigma from peers and colleagues from other medical specialties. The RCGP address this, offering an alternative perspective; deconstructing stigma around general practice and sharing their vision of how to create an ideal educational environment, which encourages informed career decisions. This discourse between the RCGP, representing professional training and engagement, and Peter Edwards, an aspiring GP, is a valuable dynamic. *Correspondence* is the vehicle to express different sides of a story, assembling a more complete picture to further educate and inform.

The BSDJ accepts two types of correspondence: peer-review responses to recently published BSDJ articles, and short letters to the editor commenting on a novel or current topic that is important and relevant to medical students. Encompassed within this are descriptions of research or innovation at an early stage of development.

Submissions to the correspondence section are limited to 500 words and five references. To learn more about how you can contribute to *Correspondence*, please visit the BSDJ website (bsdj.org.uk) for our [author guidelines](#).

1. Edwards, P. Why I am pursuing a career in general practice. *The British Student Doctor*. 2017;1(1):9-10.

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