

Letter from the Editors,

The release of the inaugural issue of Beyond the White Coat last year marked a historic and unique accomplishment for students at Marian University Tom and Julie Wood College of Osteopathic Medicine (MU-WCOM). Very few osteopathic medical schools maintain a student-run journal that offers students the support to develop their scientific work and a platform to publish it free of charge. Beyond the benefits offered to student authors, members of our editorial board at Beyond the White Coat gain experiences that are indispensable as they continue their training and pursue careers as physicians.

This student-led journal marks an important milestone as MU-WCOM continues to expand its research presence in Indiana. A key driver of this momentum is the newly launched Crossroads Academic Medical Institute, which addresses vital regional challenges, including student access to long-term research mentorship. Beyond the White Coat directly supports this mission, providing the essential platform for students to publish and share the scientific insights generated at the institute and across the broader MU-WCOM community.

The journal helps create additional pathways for students to become involved in research. In this year's edition, you will find scientific research ranging from nucleic acid R-loops (page 32) to melatonin and heart failure (page 46). We set out to expand the boundaries with the addition of six case studies, many of which come from students' impactful patient encounters during their clerkship rotations. MU-WCOM students also showcase their original artwork and unique perspectives on topics like artificial intelligence in healthcare (page 118).

We want to express our immense gratitude to our faculty mentors, Dr. Robyn Fuchs and Dr. Marsha DeSmet. Their guidance throughout the editorial and production process has been integral to this edition, as well as to the evolution of the journal overall. We would also like to offer our sincere thanks to the authors whose distinguished contributions have helped enrich this edition. Finally, we would like to thank PALNI Open Press for providing us with a means to publish this work.

As Beyond the White Coat continues to grow, we hope it will serve not only as a place to showcase student scholarship, but also as a catalyst for new research opportunities, mentorship relationships, interdisciplinary collaboration, and continued discovery throughout the MU-WCOM community.

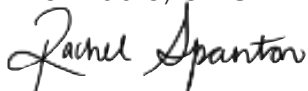
Sincerely,



Brandon Wright, OMS-II



Olivia Biddle, OMS-II



Rachel Spanton, OMS-II



Genevieve Putman, OMS-II

