

## Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

# The Next 25 Years: Harvard Medical Students' **Wishes** for the Future of Medicine

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*Harvard Medical School Class of 2030*

**A**midst the past year's assaults on science, medicine, and academia at large, we at the Harvard Medical Student Review recognize that our profession stands at a precipice. The authority previously granted to clinical and scientific institutions is undergoing a profound interrogation. Skepticism regarding expertise has intensified, and the frameworks that govern healthcare delivery face significant political and economic pressure. In such a climate, the instinct to retreat into the insularity of the clinic or the laboratory is powerful.

However, we believe that the most powerful response to skepticism is not defensiveness—it is imagination. **In times of crisis, we are called upon not just to endure, but to innovate.** It is precisely when the status quo is most fragile that the imperative to chart a new course becomes most urgent.

To capture this spirit, we issued a Call for Submissions to the Harvard Medical School student body with an aspirational prompt: ***What is your wish for the next 25 years of medicine?*** The resulting perspectives are filled with a profound sense of hope and possibility.

A central tenet of this issue is the urgent need to **rebuild the social contract between medicine and the public.** Our contributors emphasize that the medical community must actively modernize its communication, reclaiming ground on the digital platforms where misinformation often takes root. They assert that the future of medicine depends on our ability to pair scientific advancement with radical ethical transparency.

We also share a fervent hope for a future of medicine that provides **sanctuary for all.** Our authors articulate a vision wherein equity is treated as a rigorous standard of practice, and where the physician's responsibility extends to any arena where patient well-being is at stake. They argue that representation in the workforce is essential to the healing process and that the role of the healer must expand to include the role of the protector—standing firm against legislative attempts to limit access to essential services, such as gender-affirming care.

Finally, we see a future where **the promise of the latest science—from gene therapy to tissue engineering—is accessible to all**. We envision a healthcare system that learns as it acts, utilizing universal data and artificial intelligence to sharpen our insights in real time. And to guide us through this era of exponential growth, our peers call for an education grounded in first principles, fostering a generation of physicians who understand the body deeply enough to welcome these innovations with confidence.

These essays serve as a reminder that medicine is, at its heart, an optimistic profession. We study, we practice, and we research because we believe that tomorrow can be better than today. This issue is our promise to help make it so.

Sincerely,



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