EDITORIAL

Summertime

Summertime, in the immortal words of George Gershwin, is when “the livin’ is easy” – that is, of course, unless one happens to be a medical student.

I imagine it must have been around last December when I and my wide-eyed colleagues began in earnest to agonize over what to do with almost three months of summer break. As if on cue, successive information sessions, electronic missives and travel brochures flooded our schedules, inboxes and backseat pouches, mesmerizing us with promises of staple guns, pipette guns and water guns. Inquiries and deliberations and applications ensued, then all was lost amid the busyness of the second semester.

In the end, I spent the majority of my summer with the MedQUEST program (now rechristened MedLINCS) in Seaforth, Ontario. There, I divided my time between frantically scribbling down clinical pearls gleaned from local healthcare professionals and running an interactive camp for high school students from the region. I emerged physically exhausted, perhaps, but with a definitely reinvigorated passion for medicine and medical education – so, I snagged up this sweet job, and now here we all are.

My first great responsibility, this congenial anthology-of-sorts which you are now perusing on your electronic device of choice, is a record of just a few of the many stories of summertime experiences that yearn to be shared. Some of these concern patient encounters: these run the gamut from heartbreakingly sincere, through intellectually challenging, all the way to something altogether unexpected and humbling. Others of these are stories of academic study and research, now told in the form of findings that are equal parts enlightening and sobering. Still others are concerned with good weather and better parties – these are adequately chronicled on Facebook and the like.

The fish might not always be jumpin’ and the cotton varies in height, but this collection of writings will always be a ready reminder of summertime memories. Read on to discover what sorts of things students of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry were involved with over the summer of 2013.

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