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A Multidimensional Approach to Infectious Diseases

During the devastating plague of Athens in the 5th century BC, the historian Thucydides noted that survivors of the epidemic could freely care for the sick without any risk of repeated infection. It was not until over two millennia later that Pasteur's seminal work brought about the widespread acceptance of germ theory, which demonstrated that microorganisms could cause and spread illness. This new paradigm of disease revolutionized the fields of medicine and public health, ultimately enabling our contemporary understanding of infection, immunity and epidemiology. The field of infectious diseases has evidently wielded a powerful influence on medical investigation throughout human history. With Volume III, Issue II of *The Journal of Global Health*, we aim to reexamine this critical subject within the context of the modern era.

Like many important topics in global health, infectious diseases represent a complex interplay of the life sciences, sociology and domestic and international public policy. Breakthroughs in scientific techniques have enabled the accumulation of an unprecedented wealth of knowledge about the biology of many infectious pathogens. As our understanding of the basic science continues to grow, however, current public health efforts also must take into account the practical complications of disease prevention and treatment. Such approaches may focus on accessible education, such as anti-malaria instructional modules designed to prevent spread of the disease among schoolchildren. Additionally, biological differences across strains of related pathogens may combine with distinct geopolitical conditions to affect drastically the relative effectiveness of disease control programs. Chronic infections such as HIV can especially go on to exacerbate existing social concerns such as homelessness, requiring a concerted approach to specific treatment and overall wellness in order to produce any significant gains in actual health. All these issues and more are trenchantly discussed by the pieces featured in this issue of the *Journal*, which presents a broad spectrum of original research and viewpoints in the multifaceted field of infectious diseases.

As JGH commemorates its third year in circulation, we are proud to continue serving as the major voice of students from around the world who are actively engaged in shaping the future of global health. I have been continually impressed by the tremendous success with which the organization has consistently managed to surpass its ambitious goals, and it is therefore my pleasure to present to our readers my final issue both as Editor-in-Chief and as a member of the organization. As I move on, I eagerly look forward to seeing JGH continue to make a difference.

Amit Saha
Editor-in-Chief



Esther Jung

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info@ghjournal.org

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