



Art by Rachael Johnson

IN THIS EDITION:

The New Kid on the Block: The Baylor Medical Student Review **1-2**

Baylor SIMS Team Competition **3**

Medical Student Research Presentation Internal Medicine-focused **4**

Student Spotlight: Miles Richman **5**

Research Opportunities **6**

Upcoming Events **7**

The New Kid on the Block: The Baylor Medical Student Review

The Baylor Medical Student Review (BMSR) is a new peer-reviewed medical journal created by medical students at BCM. Its inaugural edition was published in March of this year and featured original work by trainees in a variety of topics and formats, including original research, case reports, reviews and narrative work.

The BMSR offers trainees an opportunity to publish work at no cost and be actively involved with the dissemination of research as editors and peer reviewers for the journal.

BMSR was founded by fourth-year student and editor-in-chief Austin Huang, who is an incoming internal medicine resident at Emory. "Our goal is to provide trainees with opportunities to publish their work in a free journal," Huang said.



Left to right: Ritu Sampige, MS2; Austin Huang, PGY1

However, the impact of the journal goes beyond just a free opportunity for publication. Huang explained that students can learn 'how to do research' as an editor or peer reviewer by critically evaluating submissions on their quality, suitability and methodology.

Incoming editor-in-chief and second-year medical student Ritu Sampige expressed similar goals. "We continuously aspire to encourage students to submit and publish their scholarly communication in an academic setting, to develop experience with the double-blind peer review process and to gain experience with contributing towards the critical review process as potential members of the editorial team," said Sampige.

She also shared plans for the journal's future, including partnering with the Texas Medical Center Library's Digital Commons to enhance visibility and accessibility through the provision of unique DOIs for each published article, as well as article appearance on scholarly search engines, such as Google Scholar.

"We hope that this endeavor will expand the audience and reach for the fascinating research that students are publishing in BMSR for many issues to come," said Sampige.

In addition, as part of the journal's plan to include students at all levels of training, Sampige is working with liaison members at different local undergraduate universities to increase engagement with partnership institutions.

"Our new liaison members will be involved in encouraging submissions from the undergraduate student community and assisting with the submission process," said Sampige. "This will allow us to keep expanding the BMSR platforms for students at all levels of training, especially students who are conducting and submitting research for the first time."

Sampige also noted that a long-term goal of BMSR is to partner with local symposiums to provide a platform to serve as a repository for accepted abstracts in the symposium, thus allowing yearly projects to be shared with the wider audience.

"This goal aligns with our theme of broadening the diversity and perspectives of the journal as well as providing a platform for new innovations and ideas," said Sampige.

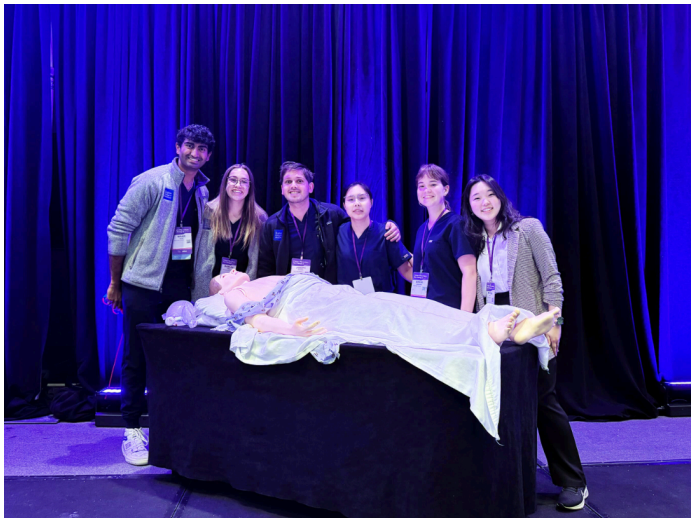
BMSR is accepting submissions throughout the academic year. Students interested in submitting their work can find author instructions on the [BMSR website](#) and can submit their work using [this form](#). Students interested in being peer reviewers or on the editor board can apply on the BMSR website or using [this form](#). Contact BaylorMSR@gmail.com for any questions, comments or feedback!



Art by Zuena Karim

Written by Adrian Boehnke
Edited by Laasya Achanta

Baylor SIMS Team Competition



*The Baylor SIMS Team
Left to right: Mahir Kota, Madeline Lomas, Joseph Reitman, Vivienne Pham, Grace Anderson, Payton Kim*

The Student Initiative in Medical Simulation (SIMS) team, also known as Trauma Bay-lor, recently competed in the American Medical Student Association Sim Challenge, held during the Future Physicians for Change conference in Washington, D.C., from Apr. 19-20, 2025.

The team comprises of first-year medical students Grace Anderson, Mahir Kota, Madeline Lomas, Vivienne Pham and Joseph Reitman and is led by second-year student Payton Kim.

This nationwide competition brought together teams to tackle high-pressure simulated patient scenarios using advanced mannequins and real-time clinical decision-making. The BCM team showcased its teamwork, clinical reasoning and efficiency, advancing to the semifinal bracket and tying for third place.

The team prepared for the competition over several months, practicing twice a week starting in August. In the month leading up to the event, the group intensified its effort, incorporating case-based simulations.

Upperclassmen served as mentors, guiding them through dynamic cases with vital signs and clinical findings that changed depending on the team's actions and timing.

Team members also practiced presenting physical exam findings and adapting to real-time feedback. Emergency medicine attending Dr. Carlos Jaquez provided training in advanced cardiac life support and advanced trauma life support protocols.

The Sim Challenge was structured as a tournament, consisting of multiple competitive rounds. The team started with an initial practice round to adjust to the stage, microphones and mannequin.

Scoring for the following three rounds was based on eight categories: communication, teamwork, decision-making, situation awareness, task management, assessment, adherence to treatment protocols and a patient-centered, humanistic approach

“Under high-stress situations, it’s easy for cognitive biases to surface,” said Anderson. “You have to develop an awareness to pause, reassess and refocus on the full clinical picture.”

Team members noted that being involved in SIMS offered more than just the competition. As first-year students, they were able to integrate knowledge from the classroom with real-time clinical decision making.

“Learning to build a differential through a hypothesis-driven method is so different from answering question stems on a test,” said Lomas. “Through SIMS, I’ve learned how to ask the right clinical questions, and I hope to carry that critical skill with me into rotations.”

For students interested in joining, SIMS offers a unique opportunity to engage in hands-on learning outside traditional classroom settings. Practices are held twice a week, and no prior experience is necessary to join. Join the [GroupMe](#) to get involved.

Congratulations to the BCM SIMS team!

Medical Student Research Presentation Internal Medicine-focused



From left to right: Teresa Lyons, MS1; Anna Young, MS3

On Apr. 10, 2025, the Student Opportunities for Advancement in Research (SOAR) office hosted its latest Medical Student Research Presentation session, offering presenters a chance to hone their research communication skills in a low-pressure environment.

Open to all BCM students, the event allowed presenters the opportunity to receive targeted feedback from a diverse panel of faculty, residents, fellows and research clinicians while connecting with members of the Department of Medicine.

Third-year medical student Anna Young presented her case report titled “Breaking it Down – A Case of Rhabdomyolysis After Spin Class.” Her project explored a case of exercise-induced rhabdomyolysis in a young, healthy woman following a high-intensity spin session, highlighting the intersection of fitness culture and clinical medicine.

“The SOAR office actually reached out to me about doing a practice presentation,” said Young. “Before that, I didn’t have any presentation experience.”

During the session, Young received verbal, real-time feedback from a panel of five to six reviewers with varied clinical and research backgrounds. Within five days, she received detailed rubric-based written feedback.

“After that, I knew what direction to take and made changes to both my presentation and poster,” said Young.

Just two weeks later, she successfully presented her updated work at a medical conference in Las Vegas. “A thousand percent recommend it to other students,” said Young.

First-year medical student Teresa Lyons also participated in the session with her project titled “A Novel Intent-to-Treat Score Index to Predict Survival Outcomes (ITT-ROS) in Adult Liver Transplant Candidates.”

Her research proposed a new metric that accounts for both waitlist and post-transplant survival, addressing limitations in current predictive tools.

Lyons learned about the opportunity through a SOAR email and appreciated how straightforward the application process was.

“All I had to do was submit an abstract and choose my available dates,” said Lyons. Her presentation featured a panel of seven reviewers who offered constructive feedback and encouragement.

“They highlighted both small changes and broader ways to improve the project,” said Lyons. “It was incredibly helpful in preparing for future presentations.”

Both students emphasized the value of the SOAR office’s support and responsiveness.

“It’s a great way to build confidence, especially if it’s your first time presenting,” said Lyons. “You get to learn from physicians who truly care about mentoring students in research.”

Written by Austin Tran
Edited by Matthew Darmadi

Student Spotlight: **MILES RICHMAN**



Miles Richman, MS1

Medicine and healthcare have always drawn diverse, skilled individuals; nevertheless, it is uncommon to find a student like Miles Richman, a first-year medical student with a background in engineering and an interest in ophthalmology.

Richman previously worked as a mechanical design engineer in the space, aerospace and rapid prototyping industries. However, he always knew that his true passion lay outside of engineering.

"I've been interested in ophthalmology for quite some time, especially after meeting an ophthalmologist who, like me, had a background in engineering," Richman said. "That connection really inspired me to explore ways to combine my engineering skills with medicine."

In his first year at Baylor, Richman actively searched for opportunities to apply his experience.

"I started out by cold emailing BCM physicians after reviewing their recent publications and interests," he said. "I would read through maybe five of their publications or so to see what resonated [...] Then I would email them and ask if they had any upcoming projects similar to those subjects."

At BCM, Richman is currently working with Dr. Benjamin J. Frankfort, a professor of ophthalmology and neuroscience, on a handheld unit that functions as a novel ERG platform to record retinal glial cell activity.

The device is built from a 3D-printed enclosure, a Raspberry Pi 5, a Pi shield, a power bank and a touchscreen. Richman hopes to begin clinical testing soon.

While the research has been rewarding, it has not been without challenges. Richman recalls the difficulties in working on a chart review project that required Epic access across three different institutions.

"But I was able to get access by continuing to ask for help," he said. "If you ever have trouble figuring out something, keep asking around—someone has likely encountered it before and is happy to help."

Richman is also honest about the time and discipline it takes to balance research with medical school.

"I try to understand the scope and time commitment when signing onto projects," he said. "I stay efficient by blocking out activities on my calendar, and if I notice myself falling behind in one area, I'll course correct and pull time from another."

Looking ahead, Richman hopes his research will deepen his understanding of ophthalmology and contribute broadly to surgical device development across specialties.



Fill out the form to be featured in the SOAR Newsletter's Student Spotlight!

Research Opportunities

Impact of Ethnicity and Race on accuracy of cerebral NIRS (Near Infrared Spectroscopy) Measurements

Pediatrics | Clinical Research
Dr. Khayri Shalhoub |
khayri.shalhoub@bcm.edu

Building Depth: Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Training & Certification in Vietnam

Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences | Medical Education | Dr. Thanh Thuy Truong |
thanhthuy.truong@bcm.edu

Patient Navigation in Newly Diagnosed Lung Cancer Patients

Medicine | Quality Improvement/Patient Safety | Dr. Aparna Jotwani |
Aparna.Jotwani@bcm.edu

Improving the emergency care of patients with serious illness(es)

Emergency Medicine | Health Services Research | Dr. Jason Bowman |
Jason.Bowman@bcm.edu

Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Eosinophilic Esophagitis in Children

Pediatrics | Clinical Research | Dr. Eric Chiou |
u250291@bcm.edu

Sex, Race, and Socioeconomic Disparities in Outcomes Among Female Patients with Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Clinical Research | Surgery |
Dr. Jayer Chung | cuneyt.koksoy@bcm.edu

The RADIANT (Research Advancing Diabetes, Atypical Network) project

Clinical Research | Endocrinology |
Dr. Ashok Balasubramanyam |
ashokb@bcm.edu

Social Determinants of Pediatric Hypertension

Pediatrics | Clinical Research
Dr. Elizabeth Onugha |
Elizabeth.Onugha@bcm.edu

Plastic surgery, pediatric plastic surgery, craniofacial surgery

Surgery | Clinical Research
Dr. Lucas Dvoracek |
Lucas.Dvoracek@bcm.edu

The Funny Bone

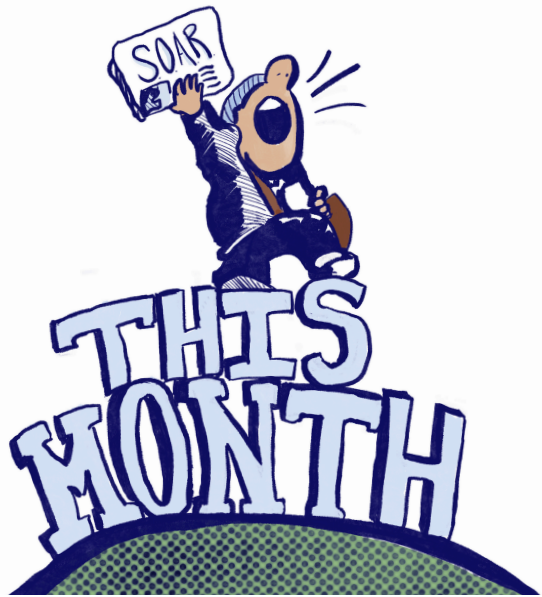


there's always next year

Art by Megan Benavides

Improving access to U.S. medical education for South American physicians

Medical Education | Medicine |
Dr. Monisha Arya | monishaa@bcm.edu



Art by Megan Benavides and Grace Anderson

Publishing Opportunity

May 9 – 19: Academic Medicine Call for Letters to the Editor

Submit your reflections on the topic, “The Moment I Knew”, exploring a pivotal moment in your professional journey. This opportunity is open to trainees in medicine, health professions, and biomedical sciences. [Submit your letter between May 9 and May 19, 2025.](#)

Research Tool Spotlight

Research Document Scanner

An innovative tool developed by the Office of Research, the Research Document Scanner helps researchers align their narratives with federal priorities. It scans documents for flagged keywords, providing a report for further review.

Funding Opportunity

The **Brick Builder Grant**, offered by **ScholarRX**, provides funding for faculty and students to create innovative learning resources (“Bricks”) that address underrepresented or emerging topics in medical education. This is an excellent opportunity to develop educational content that fills critical gaps in knowledge.

- **Award Amount:** \$500
- **Application Deadline:** May 15, 2025
- **Learn More and Apply:** <https://scholarrx.com/brick-builder-grant/>

Upcoming Events

May 13, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Veteran Research Fair

Building 100, Hospital Lobby, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

May 13, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

AI as a QI Coach: A Novel Approach to Guiding Quality Improvement Projects

Discover how artificial intelligence can serve as a responsive coach at every stage of quality improvement, from goal setting to data review. Learn more about the presenters and access the Zoom session on [Baylor I-QIPS](#).

May 28, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

REDCap Workshop: Peer-to-Peer Best Practices for Medical Students

Join us for a SOAR-hosted workshop where medical students will share best practices for using REDCap.

Registration link coming soon.

Local Conference

The Generalists in Medical Education: [Conference website.](#)

- **Conference Dates:** Thursday, October 30, and Friday, October 31, 2025
- **Submission Deadline:** May 13, 2025, at 11:59 PM
- **Location:** San Antonio, TX
- **Theme:** Navigating Challenges in Health Professions Education through Innovative Solutions

Join educators and students from across the United States and beyond at The Generalists in Medical Education Conference. This event offers a platform to connect, share insights, advance professionally, and explore solutions to complex challenges in teaching and learning within health professions education.

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