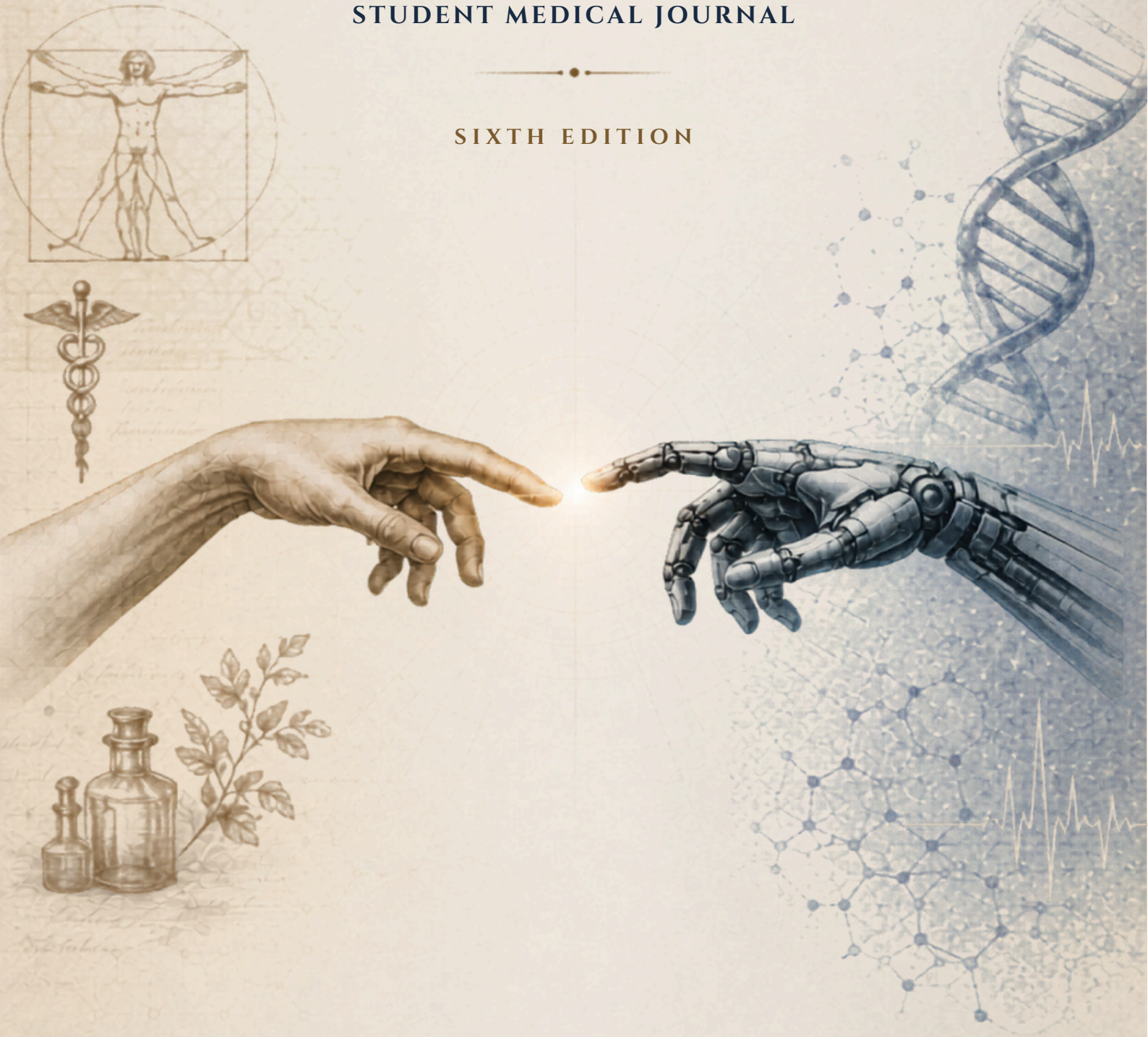
UCC SMJ

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SIXTH EDITION



THE OLD • THE NEW • THE INNOVATIVE

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FORWARD

The future of medicine is being shaped not only by scientific discovery, but by our imagination to consider how healthcare might be delivered differently. As technological advancements continue to challenge established approaches to clinical practice, the responsibility falls upon the next generation of doctors and researchers to translate innovation into meaningful improvements in patient care. It is against this exciting backdrop that we are delighted to present the sixth edition of the Student Medical Journal, dedicated to exploring the emerging technologies and ideas that will define the future of medicine.

Healthcare is entering an era of extraordinary possibility. Artificial intelligence, robotic assisted surgery, personalised therapeutics and advances in medical imaging are increasingly influencing clinical decision-making, research and patient outcomes. Yet, beyond their technical capabilities, these developments invite us to consider broader questions about accessibility, ethics and the evolving relationship between doctors and patients. Ultimately, innovation must be measured not simply by what technology can achieve, but by the difference it makes to those receiving care. We believe that fostering an appreciation of both the opportunities and responsibilities associated with these advancements is essential in preparing tomorrow's medical professionals.

Throughout this edition, we celebrate the intellectual curiosity and academic ambitions of UCC's medical student community. The contributions presented reflect a wide spectrum of scientific interests, clinical perspectives and emerging research, demonstrating the important role students play in questioning conventional thinking and advancing medical knowledge. We are especially pleased to incorporate the proceedings of UCC's annual Student Research Conference 2026, proudly sponsored by Cancer Research @UCC. By providing a platform for students to communicate their findings and engage with the wider academic community, we hope to encourage a lasting commitment to research, collaboration and scientific discovery.

Behind every publication lies the collective effort of individuals who believe in the importance of sharing knowledge. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the authors who entrusted us with their work, the peer reviewers whose thoughtful assessments strengthened each contribution, and the editorial team whose dedication has brought this edition to fruition. We also extend our gratitude to UCC School of Medicine and Cancer Research @UCC for their invaluable support in promoting student scholarship and research excellence.

As we reflect on the remarkable pace of medical progress, one principle remains constant: the future of healthcare depends as much on the people who deliver it as on the technologies they employ. We hope the pages that follow inspire our readers to approach this future with curiosity, ambition and a commitment to ensuring that innovation remains firmly rooted in addressing the needs of patients.

We are delighted to share this edition with you and hope you enjoy reading it

Pádraig Cronin & Gabriel Orhadje

CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

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