Introduction

- Essential to the development of any science researcher is the publication of his/her findings in leading medical journals like the Lancet.
- Medical journals use their immense power in the science and medicinal field to shine light on important health issues.
- The Lancet has taken a strong political stance on many contentious health issues.

Reflection

- I conducted an internal research project for the Lancet under the guidance of Dr. Jocalyn Clark.
- The research assignment was part of a larger gender project taking shape at the Lancet aiming to increase the representation of women by the journal.
- Dr. Jocalyn Clark, Editor-in-Chief Richard Horton and Elizabeth Zuccala have undertaken the project to address gender gaps in science and medicine.

Objective of Internship

I embarked on this internship to gain a deeper and personal understanding of the crossroads at which politics, journalism and healthcare lie, an area of major interest to me as a pre-medical, politics student with an interest in writing.

Work Profile

- The Lancet is Europe’s leading medical journal and is published weekly
- The Lancet staff consists of individuals with diverse backgrounds in medicine, science and journalism.
- Together, these individuals select important clinical research breakthroughs.

Reflection

- The aim of my portion of the research project was to quantify the proportion of women authors for the red-section, or research articles, of the Lancet weekly journal for the year of 2017.
- I also compiled the proportion of women authors for the commentary section of the journal for 2017-2018 as well as the proportion of women authors for the commissions of Lancet Oncology, the Lancet Neurology, and the Lancet Infectious Diseases.

Looking ahead

My experience in London has reaffirmed my passion for both medicine and politics. Exposure to how doctors can use their positions of power to take political stances has inspired me to continue my pursuit of a multidisciplinary approach to health.

Questions

- How can researchers and doctors push their political pursuits further to engage with influential individuals in health politics?
- How can doctors further cement their roles in shaping policies that affect constituent health?

Conclusion

I have gained a deeper appreciation for a highly multidisciplinary to medicine. Watching the interaction of individuals from so many different fields at the Lancet has shown me just how essential academic diversity is for the advancement of health.

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I analyzed the data using Excel and wrote a report for Dr. Clark at the end of my internship highlighting the main findings. My findings will be reported to the organization as the gender project progresses and continues to take shape within the journal.
- The information and data found on the representation of women in the Lancet publications will undoubtedly shape and inform the future publication process undertaken by the Lancet editors as to ensure that the works of women are appropriately exhibited to the medicinal and research fields.