



EDITORIAL

A warm welcome from the Editors-in-Chief

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Welcome

We are enormously proud to have worked with a range of health students at the University of Birmingham to develop the first issue of *Student Voices in Health and Medicine*.

Our vision is to provide a recognised, Open Access journal where undergraduate students can share their views on contemporary issues in health and medicine. We believe that students bring fresh perspectives that can advance healthcare research, policy and practice. The journal features a variety of student-led contributions, including evidence-based opinions, literature reviews, research projects and learning and development-focused pieces, all of which contribute to meaningful debate, expand knowledge and the shape future research and practice.

Creating a space for undergraduate students to publish their work offers an exciting opportunity to develop academic confidence, refine research and communication skills, and engage with real-world challenges. Beyond writing, students have played a key role in peer review, gaining valuable experience in critically evaluating academic work, providing constructive feedback and upholding research integrity. By amplifying student voices and fostering engagement in scholarly publishing, this journal supports fresh thinking and innovation, helping emerging scholars contribute to discussions that extend beyond the classroom and into professional practice.

The inaugural issue brings together perspectives from nursing students, exploring key healthcare challenges. One particularly timely piece is Gabriela Meira's opinion on euthanasia and assisted dying, which examines the role of nurses in shaping policy and protecting patient care, as debates on legislation continue in the UK. Other contributions address mental health inequalities, learning and development in clinical practice, the use of AI in nursing education and ethical debates in emerging treatments.

Looking ahead, *Student Voices in Health and Medicine* welcomes submissions from undergraduate students across disciplines who want to explore key questions in health and medicine, contribute to academic discussion and share their work with a wider audience.

We are especially grateful to our student editorial board, whose dedication and hard work have brought this issue to life. Their efforts have ensured that *Student Voices in Health and Medicine* is truly student-led, offering a platform for their peers to engage in meaningful academic discussion.

About Nutmeg Hallett



Nutmeg is an Associate Professor of Mental Health Nursing at the University of Birmingham. Since completing her PhD in 2017, Nutmeg's research has focused on patient and staff experiences of coercion and violence in mental health care. In her role as an educator, she is dedicated to supporting the next generation of researchers and healthcare leaders, helping students develop their academic and professional skills through publishing opportunities and international conference presentations. *Student Voices in Health and Medicine* is an extension of this work.

About Lauren Philp-von-Woyna



Lauren is an Associate Professor in Midwifery at the University of Birmingham. She completed her undergraduate degree in Midwifery and postgraduate qualifications in Healthcare Improvements, Education and her Doctoral research focussed on social and culture-based factors that enable or constrain student ideas in healthcare. Lauren is passionate about ensuring that student ideas are heard and this motivated her involvement in developing the student journal.