

Editorial

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It is my pleasure to welcome you to the LGBTQ+ Special Issue of The British Student Doctor Journal.

We began work on this issue over a year ago and it has been a phenomenally inspiring journey. From an idea formed in response to both my lived experiences in the NHS, and as a witness to those of other LGBTQ+ people, it stands now as a powerful queer expression of resilience and pride. We partnered with GLADD, The Association of LGBTQ+ Doctors and Dentists, to co-publish this issue, and they have provided great support and a wonderful editorial exploring many of the themes which have been included in this supplement. There are a number of very exciting, thought-provoking, and educational articles which we are delighted to be able to share with you.

It was important for us to create an issue which celebrated and platformed the LGBTQ+ community. As part of that mission, we commissioned a wonderful queer artist, JanCarlo Caling, to design the beautiful bespoke art featured on the front cover of this special issue. In his own words, JanCarlo explores his work:

JanCarlo Caling (he/him) is a freelance illustrator based in Birmingham. He is currently studying a masters' degree in visual communication at Birmingham City University.

This illustration was motivated by the huge reach of the LGBTQIA+ community - from our influence on pop culture to the hardships that we have faced throughout history. I wanted to emphasize how diverse the community truly is, by featuring famous historical LGBTQIA+ icons of varying race and body shapes such as Marsha P. Johnson, Audre Lorde, and Keith Haring. I tied this all together to create something more contemporary by incorporating up and coming LGBTQIA+ activists such as Jamie Windust, Chella Man, and Eddie Ndopa. It is important to show the many faces of those who helped to shape the future of LGBTQIA+ people, especially those so often forgotten to history. These individuals pave the way for future generations of queer people by educating us, inspiring us, and fighting for our rights as humans. They deserve to be recognised, remembered, and celebrated.

You can reach me on Instagram: @jn_crlo or via e-mail me at jancarulo27.art@gmail.com.

As I reflect on this issue, I am reading through the aims I listed when scribbling plans in my notebook. *To platform, to inspire, to educate.* It is my hope that this issue is a steppingstone for aspirational queer medics to continue working on rectifying the inequalities that our community still faces and to achieve incredible things in the future. This special issue has certainly inspired me to do so.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy The LGBTQ+ Issue of *The British Student Doctor Journal* as much as we have enjoyed its curation. We would like to thank GLADD for their support and belief in this special issue, even when it was just a concept in my notebook; the authors for their hard work and for sharing their voices; the editorial team for their unwavering support; the peer reviewers for their rigorous evaluations; the faculty advisory board for their mentorship; and our publisher, Cardiff University Press.



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