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EDITOR'S NOTE

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In an era of unprecedented healthcare challenges—chronic underfunding, workforce shortages, and the ongoing need for evidence-based, compassionate practice—this issue of the *Journal of Current Clinical Care* examines both crisis points and the enduring human elements that define quality care. Each contribution offers a unique lens through which to view the complex relationships between providers, patients, and healthcare systems.

Dr. Alykhan Abdulla's urgent analysis *Beyond the Breaking Point: Ontario's Healthcare Emergency* provides a sobering examination of our healthcare system's collapse. With over 90% of hospitals operating with structural deficits, emergency department wait times reaching 59.4 hours, and a projected \$21.3-billion funding shortfall by 2027-28, Dr. Abdulla's stark assessment reveals that the warnings healthcare professionals have issued for years have become devastating reality. His call for immediate, comprehensive intervention—including strategic investment in the 26,000 registered nurses Ontario lacks compared to national averages—demonstrates that the time for half-measures has passed. The system requires bold action before complete collapse occurs.

Dr. D'Arcy Little's *Optimizing Patient Care Through Evidence-Based Imaging: A Collaborative Approach* provides crucial insight into the delicate balance between clinical autonomy and evidence-based practice. His examination of spinal infection imaging demonstrates how MRI's superior sensitivity (96-100%) compared to CT (66-84%) can mean the difference between early intervention and devastating complications. Dr. Little's framework for collaborative dialogue between radiologists and ordering physicians challenges us to view imaging recommendations not as territorial disputes, but as opportunities for enhanced patient care.

Dr. Michael Gordon's narrative *The Art of Medicine and the Medicine of Art* takes us beyond traditional therapeutic modalities to explore the profound healing potential of creative expression. His case studies—a 75-year-old woman rediscovering her artistic passion and a 78-year-old musician finding solace through music—illustrate how artistic activities can complement pharmacological interventions. The evidence that musical memory persists even in advanced dementia underscores the importance of looking beyond conventional cognitive measures to preserve personhood and quality of life.

Finally, our featured *3P, Pills, Pearls & Patients* podcast episode with **Dr. Marina Malak** explores *Respiratory Health* with a focus on Asthma.

Together, these contributions remind us that optimal patient outcomes emerge not from rigid adherence to protocols, but from the thoughtful integration of evidence, empathy, and the recognition that healing encompasses far more than medical intervention alone.