

Shapiro, Johanna

From: Shapiro, Johanna
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2008 12:54 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: AoD Assignment 3

You are pretty funny, Steven :-). Being brave is overcoming your fears, right? I was shaking in my boots, but I'm still going to show next week :-). Actually, I loved the passion you both expressed. I have more personal sympathy with your position; but what I love above all is seeing doctors who care enough to talk about these things. So many never bother to become engaged with conversations that lie at the core of medicine.

As far as your difficult situation is concerned, good call. It's horrible when the doctor blames the patient for their condition. The questions you pose are absolutely right - did this woman knowingly assume this risk to her unborn child? What is the point of punishing the patient, who as you imagine so empathically, is probably already frightened and guilty?

It is also worthwhile to think about what on earth could impel a resident to make such an insensitive remark. I wonder if the resident too is feeling terribly helpless, herself frightened for the innocent life that may be unalterably adversely affected by the mom's pregestational diabetes? Does the resident feel anger or despair at what the future might hold for this woman and her unborn child? In my view, the answers to these questions, while in no way excusing the resident's callousness, may indicate a way of speaking with her to both advocate for the patient, and hopefully educate her doctor.

[REDACTED], you have impressed me through AoD as a wonderfully caring, committed, and fearless (:-)) person. I am very glad to know that you will be out there somewhere speaking truth to this very flawed healthcare system of which we find ourselves a part. Best, Dr. Shapiro

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 6:23 PM
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: AoD Assignment 3

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]