

## **FM REVIEW COMMENTS 2009-2012 22**

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR:** To me, this is a model for what a good narrative essay should be. It is extremely well-written, and demonstrates insight, self-awareness, and authenticity. It raises serious questions about how to deal with physician emotions that arise as a result of clinical care. I recommend minor revision, so that the author has a chance to address reviewer 1's concern.

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:** This is a beautifully written reflective piece that is a pleasure to read. It shows insight, self-awareness, authenticity and humility. We would like you to consider Reviewer 1's suggestions about highlighting the take-home message. Perhaps in the final paragraph, you can add a few lines explicitly about how you might grow, personally and professionally, by allowing yourself to grieve; as well as by encouraging your team to grieve. These lessons are already implied in this eloquent conclusion, but by grounding them with a bit more detail you will make it easier for readers to more fully understand the value of processing loss and grief.

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR II:** The author has submitted an eloquent and moving revision based on reviewer comments. She makes a compelling case for the benefit to the physician of processing grief; and also suggests how the courage to bring attitudes of mindfulness and self-care to distressing clinical situations can reduce burn-out. This is one of the best essays we have received. I strongly recommend accepting it.

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II:** Thank you for this thoughtful revision. It retains the lyricism of the original while making clearer important points about the relationship between addressing grief, cultivating empathy, and reducing burn-out. You've written a beautiful essay. Thank you for choosing to contribute it to Family Medicine.