

**FM REVIEW 2009-2012 39**

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR: I recommend acceptance of this thoughtful essay. I think it would benefit from further revision, however, along the lines discussed below.**

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This is a valuable essay that provides insight into the motivations underlying writing in academic primary care. One reviewer expresses concern about use of the first person plural as people write for many different reasons. Might it work to recast the essay in more personal terms, to write it in the "I" voice and discuss why YOU write, how you developed an interest in writing, how you manage to sustain writing amidst all the other pressing demands of life and career? In contrast to reviewer 1, I thought the introductory material "why we DON'T write" was amusing, and also highlighted that no one writes just for promotion, even in academia. Could this paragraph be retained, but also expressed in more personal terms? Finally, in line with the opening paragraph that notes the "limited tradition" of our own literature in family medicine, might you return to this theme at the end of the essay and stress the importance of writing for the specialty of FM? Again, this was an exceptionally well-analyzed piece that should provoke reflection among our readers about their own writing – or lack thereof!.**

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: I recommend acceptance of this thoughtful essay. It is a privilege to have Dr. Geyman's reflections on this topic. I request a couple of very small changes, as noted below, but otherwise in my view this is good to go.**

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: Thank you for a splendid essay. It will be a pleasure to share with the journal readers. The introductory material is effectively "personalized," and I liked the way you moved some of the material originally in this section to the Coda. The concluding line remains very moving to me.**

**A couple very minor requests - pg. 1, para 3, the following sentence is a bit unclear: "Each of these reasons suffers by being isolated, since they are often interrelated and complimentary to each other." Perhaps you could change it as follows, or come up with language of your own that clarifies your intention: "Each of these reasons suffers in this format by appearing to be isolated and discrete, whereas in reality they are often interrelated and complementary to each other."**

**Pg. 2, para 1 - I loved the example of the pt with osteogenesis imperfecta, but missed how it connected with writing per se. Did you end up writing a clinical case report about this patient? Perhaps you can make the tie-in to writing more explicit.**

**Again, thank you for this thoughtful contribution, I'm sure it will cause many readers to consider putting pen to paper/fingers to keyboard.**