

**FM REVIEW 2009-2012 47**

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR:** I recommend returning to author requesting some minor polishing. The feeling from both reviewers, with which I concur, is that it tells a valuable story that any academic family doc can relate to in a well-written style that nevertheless leaves the reader with a somewhat "so what?" feeling. It's hard to know how to guide the author regarding how to invest the story with more punch. I make some suggestions below.

The topic itself is so important, and so rarely addressed, that I do recommend acceptance.

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:** Dear,

This is a well-written account of that memorable transition in every academic physician's life. We are delighted that you chose to focus on this topic because, despite its prevalence, it is rarely addressed.

We'd like you to revisit your piece, however, and reflect further on how you can better convey the anxiety and momentousness of this "first day." One problem is that, as written, the highly symbolic importance of this day doesn't adequately come through to the reader. This is the first day of what you hope will be a long and successful career. Make the reader feel its significance! You do an excellent job of describing the chronological events that create your "transition," and this is indeed good "showing" not "telling." You also provide insight into your thoughts. However, it would make for a more compelling piece if you let the reader in more fully to the emotions of that day. You write from a position of self-deprecating humor, which is charming, but by showing a bit more just how weighty the responsibility is, you will engage the reader more.

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR II:** The author has done a reasonable job of addressing reviewer concerns. Specifically, she has tried to share more of her interior life on this very important day transitioning from resident to attending. She did not follow reviewer 1's suggestion to address medical transitions in general or to describe a difficult decision and the newly minted attending's approach, but these suggestions would have entailed writing an entirely different essay. Personally, I liked the focus on the "first day," because of its symbolism and because it lent itself well to a beginning-middle-end narrative.

I've provided some light editing to the ms, shortening it slightly and just tightening up the writing. I'd like the author to consider these in a final version.

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:** Thank you for your careful attention to reviewer and editor comments and suggestions. While you did not adopt them all, the revision makes a good-faith effort to share your internal state, and I think the additions are effective in engaging the reader and conveying the significance of this "first day".

**in my view, other reviewer recommendations would have required that you write an entirely different paper.**

**I've provided some minor edits to tighten the writing in a few places. Please look these over and accept any that you feel improves your manuscript.**