

## FM REVIEW 2021 7

### Editor Comments:

I recommend major revision. The two reviewers, although they make different recommendations, have essentially the same concerns - the essay is not well-written, and as a result the author comes across as somewhat self-satisfied and even annoying. Yet the essay tells a wonderful story of true family-centered practice in an urban setting where care is often sporadic and fragmented. I'd really like to see the author take another crack at this!

### Author Comments:

Editors and reviewers like the content of this essay, especially the focus on an urban population, where care can often be fragmented. However, we have concerns about the writing style. Although we want narrative essays to be first person accounts, the number of sentences using "I" focus the essay too much on you. Phrases like "It melts my heart," "Honestly, is there any greater tribute" and "I accept with great pride" have the inadvertent effect of forcing the reader into a position of admiring the narrator, rather than allowing that emotion to arise naturally from the situation described. As one reviewer notes, it is better to show than tell. So for example, a sentence such as "It is with great pride and humble reflection that I recall my immediate response to her which was in no way rehearsed, but nonetheless automatic and completely heartfelt" tells the reader how to react to the exam room full of patients. Better to delete this entirely, and just go with your response (which was indeed lovely, but you don't need to tell us that). You are describing multiple interactions, so it might not be realistic to include dialogue, but again, a few "quotes" from your patients will be more effective than telling readers they are feeling devastated or ecstatic. Please try your hand at recrafting the essay - the story you have to tell is a beautiful one!