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COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This is a case where I liked the essay better than the reviewers. I agree with reviewer #1 that it is hard to offer new insights into this well-worn territory, but I thought the essay authentic and an engaging personal journey. However, the reviewers both have significant valid concerns. LeNeva also reviewed this paper, and had substantial agreement with reviewer #1. In my comments to the author, I've recommended additional editing with a focus on style, and have also attached LeNeva's suggestions. I also recommended eliminating references (recommended by one reviewer), which struck me as a bit too self-focused, but a case could be made that they chronicle his literary development. I'll leave it your judgment as to whether you agree.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Dear, we liked this article, but would request that you consider several issues raised by reviewers. In particular, despite the space limitations, if you could "deepen" the reflections in any way, this would address reviewer #2's main concern. Possibly giving fewer examples, but exploring the ones offered more fully, telling a "mini-story," might be one way of achieving this.

Please also return to the paper with an editorial eye, with the goal of making it read more cleanly and straightforwardly. Reviewer #1 identifies a few specific sentences that could be reworked; and we are including recommendations of a staff editor for your consideration..

Finally, we recommend that you eliminate the references. The narrative essays generally do not include references, or only a few, and these are all self-referential. Readers who are interested in becoming further acquainted with your writing can easily search pubmed.

Thank you for being willing to put in additional work on this manuscript. It has much to recommend it and we want to ensure it has fulfilled its promise as much as possible.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: This piece describes the journey in writing of one physician-author. This version reads very well and articulates the arc of his experience. The author has carefully considered reviewer and editorial feedback. While he has not chosen to follow every suggestion, the changes made have definitely improved the manuscript. I recommend acceptance.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: Dear, it was either the actual rewriting or the Baskerville font (!) but either way, this version reads very well and shows important highlights of your journey as a physician-writer. Thank you for considering all suggestions that came your way; your point about illustrating a "trend" is well-taken, and makes sense within the context of the essay.