

FM REVIEW COMMENTS 2013 11

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This poem received positive comments from reviewers, and overall I like it too. It is written from the perspective of an experienced physician, looking back on the arrogance of his youth, acknowledging the limitations and failures of medicine, and ultimately embracing caution as a guiding principle. It contains several good metaphors and is generally well-conceived and well-written. I recommend minor revision.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This poem charts the course of a physician who moves from unbridled optimism bordering on arrogance about his profession to a more tempered view over time. Both reviewers found it spoke to them. Its rhythm and imagery are well-crafted and show evidence of thoughtful wordsmithing.

The poem could benefit from a little minor tinkering. With Reviewer 2, I struggled with lines 20-21 (see attached revisions). These lack the power of and elegance of the rest of the poem, and read awkwardly. I also struggled with the first line of this stanza. Please consider reworking or revising this stanza to bring it up to the level of the first and third (the attached revisions are not offered as a model, but may trigger some creative ideas about how to approach these lines).

Overall, this is an excellent reflection that will certainly resonate with many physicians.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: Dr. has contributed an intelligent, witty, and self-deprecatory poem about how the physician's view of medicine changes with age and experience. The problematic second stanza now reads very well and is consistent with the quality of the surrounding stanzas. I recommend acceptance.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: This poem has turned out really well, and the second stanza in particular is now well-crafted, clear and appropriately rueful. The poem charts a journey that many experienced physicians will recognize. Well-written and well-said!