

FM REVIEW 2013 33 COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This essay has potential, but is diminished a gratuitous sexist remark (female residents getting pregnant), as well as a possibly culturally biased remarks ("Next came the FMGS"). Its overall point is unclear - it seems to be a sort of general tribute to the residents of his program as they confront the inevitable messiness of clinical care. The essay meanders from one observation about the residents to another, without much overall unity. I recommend reject. I do believe that the author has a good narrative essay within him based on his Balint group experiences. If he would like to rewrite so that he tells a particular story that illustrates a theme he feels is particularly important to residency training, that might be a way to proceed.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thank you for this submission. Balint groups offer important benefits to family practice residencies, and the journal would like to hear more about them. However, the purpose of the narrative essay section is to publish pieces that tell a story; and in spite of some intriguing examples in passing, it is more about your general impressions of your residents than a specific narrative. Also, although this is no doubt unintentional, the brief allusions to patients might be interpreted as patient-blaming. If you can tell a story about a particular session that illustrates one or more of the themes that interest you in this submission (the messiness of clinical practice, humor as defense mechanism, the intimacy of the patient-doctor relationship, including learning to recognize the patient's cri du coeur), that is an option.