

## **FM REVIEW 2013 35 COMMENTS**

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR:** Another quite divergent opinion - one reviewer recommends accept, the other probably wanted to say reject, and in any case was clearly very unenthusiastic. Since the author is a published essayist and poet, I would favor accepting the poem with minor revisions. I find its message of mission and inspiration regarding the practice of family medicine to be uplifting, and hopefully other readers will respond similarly.

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:** Dear Dr., thank you for submitting this moving poem, which shows that mid-career family physicians can still find joy and inspiration in their work. I found what you wrote about the humility and grace to be with loss and death, and the possibility of ongoing transformation through clinical practice to be very beautiful.

I'd recommend that you consider a few minor changes, e.g., not capitalizing each line, but rather use capitalization according to standard sentence construction; and making a few word changes in the stanza that starts with "the grace" (see attached). Finally, the stanza that begins "the joy" seems a bit thin - could you flesh this out a bit, maybe add a vivid detail to bring the miracle of new life" to life? The last stanza is strong. Coming full cycle through the repetition of the word "still" is effective and compelling.

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR II:** The author has made requested changes and has done her best to flesh out this poem. I particularly like that it presents a mid-career perspective that is hopeful and uplifting. I recommend acceptance.

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II:** Thank you for the revisions. The additions indeed add substance to the poem. This poem shows well how medicine can still be fulfilling and meaningful even after many years laboring in the trenches.