

## FM REVIEW 2014 8 Comments

**Comments to Editor:** This is a touching but rather prosaic poem, despite the occasional lovely line. It describes the unexpected death of a beloved uncle just when the narrator is about to take a much anticipated family vacation. It raises issues of how to balance being a doctor with being a family member; and shows how impactful medical events can reverberate in patient care and teaching. Precisely because it is an issue with which physicians are so familiar, it requires truly original insight, which the poem unfortunately does not offer. Regretfully, I must recommend reject.

**Comments to Author:** You have chosen a worthwhile topic, one familiar to most physicians. Precisely because it is an issue with which physicians are so familiar, it requires strikingly original insights, creative use of language, and an approach which helps readers think about the issue in new ways. Unfortunately, despite the sincerity of the writing, and some truly lovely lines (“That window, splintered pieces of a love story/This mourning would be my family time”), the poem does not sufficiently deliver this sort of fresh approach. Regrettably, the uncle in the piece and the narrator’s relationship to him do not step off the page in a way that fully engages the reader emotionally. We must often turn away submissions to this column that have potential but in our estimation do not fully succeed as a creative piece.