

FM REVIEW 2015 20 COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This is a moving meditation on how Family Medicine can contribute meaningful care to patients at end of life and indeed all along the care continuum. However, as I read it, although it starts off with a story about the suicide of a friend, it is pretty much an opinion essay. It summarizes 5 reference works on longevity, mortality, and life's meaning (all wonderful works). It then holds forth about the importance of helping patients integrate joy and meaning into their lives through interprofessional care. Again, wonderful - but opinion. It is a great topic, but not in this form. I recommend reject and resubmit.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This is a passionate and power essay, and it addresses a really deep "meta-issue" in family medicine. Unfortunately, despite the narrative at the beginning of the essay, it is primarily an opinion piece, which the journal does not publish. Your call for a more meaningful and joyful way of caring for patients is inspiring, but it is still opinion. We are very interested in the topic, but must ask you to recast this work as a story. Your friend's tragic suicide is an involving beginning. Instead of summarizing what are indeed wonderful books on this topic; and then calling for a reorientation of the specialty toward meaningful care in life and death, we'd like to see how you have brought these ideas into your own resident teaching. Please tell us a story that "shows" how you are becoming the change you seek.