

FM REVIEW 2015 16 COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This is a very well-written account by a second year resident of how a traumatic patient death during a volunteer stint in Haiti caused her to experience distress and anxiety on Ob-Gyn; and how through reflecting on her fears and seeking support from faculty and peers she was able to come to terms with the past death of THIS patient and the possibility of a bad outcome in the future. I disagree with reviewer 1 that the essay should be expanded to include other examples; I think this would dilute the story. In contrast to reviewer 1, who regarded the essay as "simplistic," I feel it presents very well the perspective of a young physician with impressive insight into how to develop self-awareness and positive coping. While I acknowledge that its message is a simple one, it is also a true one. With a few very minor revisions, I think this is well worth publishing.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thank you for this honest essay about how the death of your patient in Haiti reverberated in ways you didn't expect when you did Ob-Gyn as an intern. I appreciate your awareness of your emotions, your ability to reflect on them, and your willingness to share your experiences and seek support. I loved your sensitivity to the danger of "exploiting" your patient's story for your own purposes. I also liked the nuance you brought to the essay when you acknowledged that it is not a completely "linear" story with a neat ending. Instead, it is messy, just like life.

I disagree with reviewer 1 that the essay should be expanded to include other examples; I think this would dilute the story. You may ignore this recommendation.

We liked your essay very much, and suggest just a few minor changes. The only content addition we request is if you could elaborate on your shift to being "excited" about doing OB. Please see the edited version attached.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: This is a well-written essay about a resident's earlier traumatic experience with a delivery that created anxiety and fear during her OB rotation; and how, with help and support, she began to work through these feelings. The essay does not have a completely facile ending, and I like this. Overcoming fear of a particular negative clinical experience is not an achievement but a process. I recommend acceptance.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: Thank you for your revisions, in particular the elaboration on your evolving "excitement" for OB. Your essay is well-written and open, and I think will help readers (in their capacity as teachers, or as residents) understand that overcoming fear of a particular negative clinical experience is not an achievement but a process.