

FM REVIEW 2017 6 COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: Reviewers loved this essay about an endocrinologist whose career path leads to her functioning as a primary care doc in a family medicine student-run clinic. It offers valuable insights into how third year medical students should think about their future specialty choices. It also affirms fundamental FM values of the importance of service, as well as teaching and guiding learners and the education of patients. With a few minor revisions, it will make a very interesting and I suspect much appreciated contribution to the journal.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thank you for this unique perspective on the specialty of family medicine. Both reviewers and editors were moved by your sense of "coming home." We felt your essay offers invaluable insights into how third year medical students should think about their future specialty choices. It also affirms fundamental FM values of the importance of service, as well as teaching and guiding learners and the education of patients.

We are recommending primarily minor stylistic alterations to smooth out or clarify certain phrases or sentences. In addition, reviewer 2 suggests you add a line or two in the next to last paragraph about the kind of counsel you received from mentors in making your own crucial decision regarding specialty; and how the limitations of this advice might have influenced you to emphasize values and service more strongly with your own students. We agree that this recommendation might tie in the start of the essay with its conclusion and urge you to consider it.

Thank you for sharing your journey with us and soon, with our readers.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: This revised essay describes the path of a subspecialist to working in a family medicine clinic and her sense of "coming home." The author has done a modest but effective revision. The one recommendation which the author did not incorporate was the suggestion of a reviewer to address the challenges of a subspecialist trained in a narrow sphere learning to be comfortable with the breadth of concerns of primary care patients. I tend to agree that this question, while interesting, would take the essay in a completely different direction; and as the essay is already slightly over length, I support the decision not to examine this particular issue.

On the point of word count, the author agrees in her cover letter to deleting the last sentence of the second to last paragraph: "If a mentor had urged me to take those steps..." I feel this sentence is somewhat superfluous and could be cut; and I do not feel we need the author's permission, as she has already granted it.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: Thank you for these revisions, which improve the readability and flow of the essay. We really appreciated reading about your journey, and are glad that you have found such a compatible home in family medicine. I agree with you that trying to discuss the challenges of a subspecialist learning to be comfortable with the breadth of concerns of primary care patients would take the essay in a completely different direction; and support your omitting it. Your perspective on family medicine will surely enable practitioners and educators well entrenched in this specialty to appreciate it anew.