

FM REVIEW 2017 10 COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This is an essay about a family physician observing medical students' interacting with a patient and family member - with a twist! The students are MS1s and the "patient" and his "son" are standardized patients. The twist is cleverly presented toward the end of the essay, and it caught me by surprise. Like all the participants in the encounter, I was caught up by its verisimilitude. The essay is simply and straightforwardly written. The author is appreciative both of the skill of all involved, as well as the improvements in training since her student days. It is a nice tribute to the use of standardized patients, a topic which I don't believe has been previously addressed in the narrative essays. Both reviewers recommended acceptance. With a little minor wordsmithing, I agree.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thank you for this interesting essay about a family physician observing medical students' interacting with a patient and family member - with a twist! That these are standardized patients is cleverly presented toward the end of the essay, and it caught me by surprise. Like all the participants in the encounter, I was caught up by its verisimilitude. The essay is a lovely tribute to the use of standardized patients (a topic which I don't believe has been previously addressed in the narrative essay section) as well as advances in medical education over the years. I believe the essay could benefit from a little minor wordsmithing, after which it will make an excellent addition to the journal.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: This already excellent essay is now improved by some minor word changes. The only issue of any significance was whether the patient should be referred to as simulated vs. standardized; and the author has made a good case for retaining the former term. I recommend that we accept this interesting piece on a topic rarely addressed in this section.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: Thank you for these small changes, which make an already excellent essay just a little bit more perfect. I appreciate your discussion of simulated vs. standardized and agree that you should retain the former term. I think many readers involved in medical education will recognize aspects of this scenario and share your appreciation both for the skill of the "patients" and the respectful and knowledgeable ways in which even inexperienced students interact with them.