

## **FM REVIEW 2018 2 COMMENTS**

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR:** This submission is a lovely essay by a skilled and talented writer about how the concept of high G barrel rolls in flight training might be relevant to family medicine. This central metaphor which, as the author recognizes, initially seems so alien to the dailyness of most family physicians' practices, actually becomes a powerful incentive to pay closer attention to patients. Reviewers liked it quite a bit, as do I. It could benefit from a few minor modifications, such as an inadvertent blaming of unreceptive learners, and an example of a patient doing a barrel roll for a clueless physician. With these modifications, it will make a memorable essay.

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:** This submission is a lovely, beautifully crafted essay about how the concept of high G barrel rolls in flight training might be relevant to family medicine. This central metaphor which, as you humorously recognize, initially seems so alien to the dailyness of most family physicians' practices, becomes a powerful incentive to pay closer attention to patients.

Three rather minor suggestions that I feel would improve an already excellent piece: 1) I agree with reviewer 2 that the opening question might come across as excessively judgmental of recalcitrant learners. This is ironic because the main thrust of the essay is your very evident humility and commitment to life-long learning. I wonder if you can tweak this just a bit to indicate that really the essay is not about your learners, but about yourself?

2) The second paragraph seems to suggest the essay is going to be about those unteachable learners after all. Instead, it emerges as a way station to a much deeper and impressively insightful reflection about patients' own attempts at barrel rolls. If you added some sort of transition here, the reader would not have to work so hard to make the shift.

3) As reviewer 2 notes, it would strengthen the piece if you could provide a brief account of a patient's barrel roll that taught you something important.

Thank you for a submission that will share such a useful and memorable metaphor.

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR II:** This essay required just a few minor adjustments. It continues to be an well-crafted insightful piece using the analogy of an airplane barrel roll to alert the observer to the fact that they are not quite as much of a hot-shot as they think. The author removed the introductory "hook" that might have seemed a little patronizing; improved the transition from her patient's story to her own reflection; and added a concluding line that helps clarify that this story is about her desire to avoid patients barrel-rolling her in the future through greater attentiveness and humility.

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II:** Thank you for making these minor revisions. Removing the introductory "hook" avoids the potential problem of inadvertently sounding patronizing. The transition from your patient's story to your own reflections now flows more easily. Finally, adding the concluding line helps clarify that this story is about your desire to avoid patients barrel-rolling you in the future through greater attentiveness and listening in the face of even pedestrian concerns. This is a lovely essay that helps us think about what happens in the doctor-patient relationship in a new way.