

FM REVIEW 2018 9 COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: Excellent essay about a patient who entrusts her end of life to her family physician. There are so many good moments in the essay - the physician's acknowledgment of the burden as well as satisfaction that the patient's devotion engenders in her; her embracing the responsibility of caring for her patient in her final days; her willingness to learn how to do paracentesis, and make home visits; her wise counseling of her overwhelmed pre-medical student; and her completing the death certificate, giving her patient her last conscientious attention, and then moving to the bouncing baby in the next room.

Reviewers and I have a couple of minor suggestions, including a request to strengthen the final couple of sentences. Otherwise a pretty perfect essay.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thank you for this beautifully written and well-conceived essay about a patient who entrusts her end of life to her family physician. There are so many good moments in the essay - the physician's acknowledgment of the burden as well as satisfaction that the patient's devotion engenders in her; her embracing the responsibility of caring for her patient in her final days; her willingness to learn how to do paracentesis, and make home visits; her wise counseling of her overwhelmed pre-medical student; and her completing the death certificate, giving her patient her last conscientious attention, and then moving to the bouncing baby in the next room. The title is also excellent as it references the mutual dedication of this doctor and patient.

Reviewers and I have a couple of very minor suggestions. Only because you are such a strong writer, a few clichéd phrases stand out (sharp as a tack; in sickness and in health). Think about making these a little more interesting. Also, both reviewers felt you could strengthen the final couple of sentences. The essay is otherwise so moving that these land with a bit of a thud. You clearly take great joy and pride in your life as a family doctor. Please think of how you can express this so that, in the words of reviewer 1, the concluding lines of the essay "soar."

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: This lovely essay captures eloquently the "dedication" of patient to physician and physician to patient. I was particularly moved when this family physician learned paracentesis to make her dying patient more comfortable. The author has rewritten the last paragraph to convey more clearly the relational joy that results from this kind of commitment. The essay is definitely ready for publication.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: Thank you for the very minor tweaks that nevertheless contribute toward making an already touching essay even more lovely. The concluding paragraph now expresses beautifully the importance of presence in the doctor-patient relationship, and the hard-won joys that can result. The writing is understated but beautiful, and its message of the essay is one that never grows old.