

FM REVIEW 2018 8 COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This is a hard one. This essay does not tell a story, and is essentially an opinion piece about the potential value of including more diverse portraits in the hallowed halls of academia. I wholeheartedly agree with this call for action, but even the authors acknowledge there is no evidence to indicate that such a move would create a greater sense of inclusion. If the authors wanted to rewrite as a narrative, perhaps focusing on the rows and rows of older, white males portrayed and their own emotional reactions. Regrettably, as written, it is not the sort of essay we publish.

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS: This is a timely and well-written essay about the discrepancy between the portraits of dead, white males that decorate the walls of medical schools and the diverse student body and faculty who learn and practice in these environments. The essay identifies a few initiatives through which these portraits are being challenged and speculates about the possible beneficial effects of their removal or balancing on students and faculty. Unfortunately, as a matter of policy, the journal does not publish opinion pieces or prescriptive writing. The narrative essay section is designed for pieces that tell a particular story of a physician, medical student, medical educator, or patient. If there is a way to recast this essay so that it tells a story - perhaps from the perspective of two women physicians walking through these corridors - we would be glad to reconsider it. (The title, by the way, is very clever).