

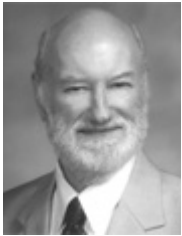


Sierra Sacramento Valley Medicine

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Editor's Message

To Families, Associates, and Should-Be-Members



By John Loofbourow, MD

THE GROWTH IN READERSHIP of our online publication has been dramatic during the past few years, even though mailed issues go to members only.

This growth is predominantly local. That is as it should be because physicians do not function alone. We live and work in the company of family, colleagues, and friends; we are professionally and individually dependent on a host of people from every walk of life.

In addition to spouses of members, it is very clear that many *SSV Medicine* readers are non-physicians, or non-member physicians whom I think of as *should-be members*. I address this letter to you all because I know you are there, and I know that your ideas, your comments, and your observations, and you yourselves, are important to our members.

Recently, Gabrielle Neuberger, president of the Alliance, spoke with me about writing articles. In the past we have published reviews of Alliance activities, usually in with a message from the president, and we look forward to that each year. But I want more from Alliance members, Gabrielle; more from family, secretaries, and receptionists, and nurses, and technicians and housekeepers.

To all: We welcome your essays, articles, commentary, letters, insights. There is no doubt at all in my mind that many of you have opinions and are fully capable of expressing them; that many of you are writers, poets, storytellers.

In fact, knowing the general level of education among medical people and our families, and friends, I expect many of you can express yourselves even more clearly and eloquently than those of us who have had our noses buried in mind numbing medical books for so many years, and now put in 90 hour weeks in practice.

A receptionist, for one example among many, doing what is likely the single most stressful work in medicine, could tell much that is informative, pathos filled, instructive, curious, or sometimes hilariously funny, especially when it reveals a human quality we all may have overlooked.

The letter or article I want to see from any and each of you is: the one that tells of your relationship to your physician father or mother. The one that tells of someone's medical care in whatever aspect is most significant to you. The poem about illness, loss, recovery, or an inspirational moment. The time you felt the medical system or non system failed you or helped you beyond any expectation.

Naturally, as always, we must be selective and an accepted article must be done considerately and without disclosing privileged information. Yet at the same time we appreciate strong opinion well expressed.

The process of submitting an article or poem or story or essay is really exceedingly simple. Send it to me by email at the address below. I will read it, comment, and reply. Sometimes I will suggest editing for size, or style, or other details. We will send the article back and forth until we both are satisfied. Then it will be reviewed by our editorial committee who decide if it is accepted for publication.

We try not to publish articles that are self serving, disguised advertising, abusive, subject to litigation, or legally risky. Due to space limitations we seldom publish more than 2 or 3 pages in length: 500 to 1200 words. We like a passport sized black and white photo, but it is not at all required.

This is a magazine or opinion and essay, dedicated to the lives of physicians, patients, family, community, medical commentary or politics; but not technical articles, so no bibliography or references are required although that is okay if desired and not extensive. Send us your scrivenings. Whenever we can publish them, we will. And when we can't, the rejection is thoughtful, painless, and secret.

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