

From Our Readers ...

Greetings:

I was pleasantly surprised to receive *The Permanente Journal* in the mail today. For the past few years, I have read the publication and have enjoyed it for the articles, abstracts, and particularly the poems. I feel honored to be included as part of the health care team in the contribution and development of content as well. This goes directly to the essence of the mission, promoting collaboration and teamwork in the delivery of care to our members.

Thank you,

Susie Larson, RN, MSN
Service Manager, TPMG
Oakland, CA

—Reply

Thank you for your note. You expressed exactly what we hoped would be true about distributing the journal to the health care team.

I appreciate you taking the time to write to us.

Tom Janisse, MD, Editor-In-Chief

Let us hear from you.

We encourage you to write, either to respond to an article published in the *Journal* or to address a clinical issue of importance to you. You may submit letters by mail, fax, or e-mail.

Send your comments to:
The Permanente Journal
Letters to the Editor
500 NE Multnomah St, Suite 100,
Portland, Oregon, 97232
Fax: 503-813-2348
E-mail: permanente.journal@kp.org

Be sure to include your full address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. Submission of a letter constitutes permission for *The Permanente Journal* to publish it in various editions and forms. Letters may be edited for style and length.

Dear Editor,

It was a pleasant surprise and an honor to see my name and photo in *The Permanente Journal!* (Perm J 2004 Winter;8(1):103).

Minor error, however ... my degree is DO, not MD.

Ruth Robinson, DO, MBA
Family Practice
Executive Director, Annapolis Center
PCCL, Woodlawn Center



Editor,

As a book reviewer for *The Permanente Journal*, I recently had the privilege to see galley-proofs of two other reviews, one concerning AJ Cronin's classic novel *The Citadel*, and the other concerning *The Hospital Survival Guide*, written by David Sherer and Maryann Karinch.

As to Cronin's novel, the review reminded me intensely of my teenage days, when the story of young doctor, Andrew Manson, and his loyal wife and coach, Christine, became one of my guide-books as to my own choice of profession. Cronin certainly made several statements that still prove valid, and reviewer Seth Kivnick paid a respectful homage to an honest author.

Reading the review of *The Hospital Survival Guide*, however, was a shaking experience. I mean not so much the review as such, which is informed by a quite sober and seemingly fair approach from the side of Kenneth D Larsen, the reviewer. I am shaken by the sheer fact that such a book is, or at least seems to be, necessary when encountering the institution made for helping people in difficulties.

Are you, reviewer and editor, quite sure that the authors really mean to address the users of the health care system and not its representatives in an ironically disguised critique of both the system and the discipline? Perhaps they mainly intend to hold up a mirror for a profession, hoping that the profession's representatives dislike what they see?

Sincerely,
Anna Luise Kirkengen
Oslo, Norway

—Reply

Thank you for your note and your provocative thoughts.

Editor, TPJ