Circulation: 25,000 print readers per quarter, and accessed by 501,000 unique Web readers in 2008 from 164 countries of the world.

On the cover: "Diagnostic Atial Flutter + postcard sugar collage (2" x 3") by Pattie Palmer-Baker, a Kaiser Permanente patient in Portland, OR. Ms. Palmer-Baker's diagnosis of Atrial Flutter put her in touch with powerful feelings about the disorder and about suffering, aging, and death, which she has tried to express in this piece. Ms. Palmer-Baker's work includes calligraphy, collage, and original poetry. In this collage, the poetry, calligraphic form, meanders around the edges of the work making a visual statement while conveying her thoughts and feelings. The collage is made up of images and designs cut from paste paper Ms. Palmer-Baker created. Ms. Palmer-Baker states that the integration of the elements—poetry, collage, and calligraphy—creates an image that is greater than the sum of its parts. More of Ms. Palmer-Baker's artwork may be seen at her Web site: www.pattiepalmerbaker.com.
Clinical Medicine

47 Image Diagnosis: Abnormal Plain Films from the Emergency Department. Gus M Garmel, MD, FACEP, FAAEM

In image 1, acute epiglottitis looks like a thumbprint at the level of the hyoid bone. Although now relatively rare in children, it can occur in adults and remains an airway emergency. In image 2, free air under both hemidiaphragms is an ominous sign. Although it may be present in postoperative patients and has been reported following vigorous sexual activities.

Corridor Consult

48 Acute Phosphate Nephropathy. Antoine Abcar, MD; Aviv Hever, MD; Jasminder S Momi, MD; John J Sim, MD

The risk for acute phosphate nephropathy is increased in patients with underlying chronic kidney disease, older age, and female sex; in patients taking angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin-receptor blockers, diuretics, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and after exposure to sodium-phosphate bowel-cleansing solutions.

51 The Importance of Accurate Blood Pressure Measurement. Joel Handler, MD

The most important commonly performed office test is blood pressure measurement, yet it is considerably undervalued. Populationwide, small inaccuracies in blood pressure measurement can have considerable consequences. Overestimating true blood pressure by 5 mm Hg would lead to inappropriate treatment with antihypertension medication in almost 30 million Americans, with attendant exposure to adverse drug effects, the psychological effects of misdiagnosis, and unnecessary cost.

Commentary

55 East Asian Attitudes Toward Death—A Search for the Ways to Help East Asian Elderly Dying in Contemporary America. Sok K Lee, MD, MA

Most people in the West and the East wish to die at home; however, about 50% of Americans die in acute care hospitals. For better care of the dying elderly, this article is written to help American physicians understand the unique aspects of East Asian Confucian Ethics—the relational autonomy of family, Confucian creative self-transformation, and the unity of transcendence and the human being.

61 SERVE Ethiopia. Philip J Tuso, MD, FACP

The incidence of chronic kidney disease in Ethiopia is rising because of high blood pressure and diabetes mellitus. End Stage Renal Disease remains mostly fatal. Treatment considered the norm in industrialized countries is limited in Africa—dialysis is dependent on the availability of funding and charitable contributions; few governments cover the cost of renal replacement therapy.

65 The World Health Organization’s Evidence-Based Approach to Chronic Diseases: Primary Prevention or Caring for End-Stage Disease? Tom Judd, MS, PE, CCE, CPHQ, FACEC

Several hundred evidence-based (EB), national and global Clinical Practice Guidelines have been mapped by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the past ten years, allowing simulation and analysis of the health services’ resource requirements of various countries. This approach reflects a balance between primary prevention interventions (eg, as demonstrated for hypertension and diabetes) and investing in ongoing EB Medicine treatment. Examples are cited from personal experience with WHO initiatives in Kyrgyzstan and Mexico.

69 The Perfect System. George Halvorson

Health care needs and deserves the perfect computer system. Here are ten criteria, detailed in a chapter from Health Care Will Not Reform Itself, for that ultimate American health care database system design: 1) patient focused, 2) complete, 3) accessible by all relevant parties, 4) current, 5) easy to use, 6) linked to care improvement programs, 7) accessible to patients as well as caregivers, 8) transportable, 9) interoperable, 10) confidential.

Qualitative Case Study

77 Responding to the Language Challenge: Kaiser Permanente’s Approach. Kate Meyers, MPP; Gayle Tang, MSN, RN; Alicia Fernandez, MD

A qualitative case study of the Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center’s approach to developing linguistic access services and subsequent organizationwide initiatives: language-specific care modules focused on Chinese- and Spanish-speaking patients, a centralized Multicultural Services Center, improving interpreter services, optimizing use of bilingual staff, and creating a translation infrastructure.

Editorials

84 Interview with Lawrence Weed, MD—The Father of the Problem-Oriented Medical Record Looks Ahead. Lee Jacobs, MD

During this interview, Dr. Weed describes his electronic tool for applying medical knowledge to patient data—“coupling”—to aid the accuracy and completeness of diagnostics and treatment. In addition, he describes his view of the failing of the current medical education system, which fosters a misplaced faith in the efficacy of a physician’s intellect.

90 Biostatistics 101: Understanding Data. David Etzioni, MD, MSHS; Maher A Abbas, MD, FACS, FASCRS

Research studies can generate complex data and results that require analysis to demonstrate the effect of therapies and interventions, to establish the efficacy or limitation of treatments, and to prove or refute a scientific hypothesis. An understanding of biostatistics is critical to the researcher investigating clinical questions. Equally important is an appreciation of statistics by the reader and interpreter of published studies. This article, the first of a three-part series on statistics for clinicians, notes: types of data: quantitative (continuous or discrete) and qualitative (ordered or discrete); and describes data as measurements of the center and the distribution.