

Mission: *The Permanente Journal* is published for physicians and nurses to create and deliver superior health care through the principles and benefits of Permanente Medicine.

Permanente Medicine is preventive, innovative, evidence-based, population care practiced by a multispecialty group, using an electronic health and medical record, and focused on patient relationships and outcomes.

Circulation: 30,000 print readers per quarter, and accessed by 500,000 unique Web readers per year from 130 countries.



On the cover: "Three Flowers" is a radiograph by Frances Matthews, RT(R)(M).

Ms Matthews is a mammography technician at the Garden Grove Medical Center in CA. While taking photography classes at Cypress College, Ms Matthews was exposed to the idea of using radiography to photograph objects. The

idea further developed when she began work on a semester project involving radiographs of flowers, which required that she advance her skills at printing using color solarization. Ms Matthews wanted to demonstrate to patients the detail and quality that the mammography machine can obtain and several of her radiographs hang in mammography rooms at several Southern California Kaiser Permanente Medical Centers.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

2007 James A Vohs Award for Quality First-Place Selection

CME 4 A Multidisciplinary Approach to Transition Care: A Patient Safety Innovation Study.

Jeryl McGaw, MS, RN, ND; Douglas A Conner, PhD; Thomas M Delate, PhD, MS; Elizabeth A Chester, PharmD; Carol Ann Barnes, MS, PT, GCS

This article describes a systematic and comprehensive program for dealing with the problems inherent in a complex health system necessitating frequent transfers of responsibility among providers. There is concentration on avoidance of medication errors and coordination of outpatient care.

10 Penicilloyl-Polylysine Stability and Clinical Use Over Time.

Eric Macy, MD; CK Lin, PhD; Bruce Goldberg, MD, PhD

Because of unavailability of a commercial product, outdated material was used to test for penicillin allergy. Results were satisfactory and comparable to those with materials previously used before the stated expiration date.

12 Introducing Narrative Practices in a Locked, Inpatient Psychiatric Unit.

Lewis Mehl-Madrona, MD, PhD

A trial program of innovative, daily one-hour group therapy sessions emphasizes storytelling as a technique for obtaining emotional rapport with involuntarily confined psychiatric patients. The interesting positive results are potentially useful. Expressing your current story, then constructing a new one, is powerful self-treatment.

CME 22 Fetal Heart Rate Pattern Notification Guidelines and Suggested Management Algorithm for Intrapartum Electronic Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring.

Thomas Downs, MD; Evelyn Zlomke, RN, MPH

Variability in the use of FHR guidelines may account for past trials showing lack of efficacy. The proof of effectiveness of a practice guideline is day-to-day use through a management algorithm.

30 A Decade of Experience with a Multiday Residential Communication Skills Intensive: Has the Outcome Been Worth the Investment?

Terry Stein, MD

This study of videotaped, role-play practice with actors for 525 physicians cites significant effects: change in habits, patient satisfaction, and physician satisfaction—all sustained over time.

41 Whole Person Health for the Whole Population: One-Year Evaluation of Health Coaching.

Melodi Licht, RN, MSN; Jeffrey M Davis, MD, MPH; Allison Scripps, MS, RD, CDE; Juanita Cone, MD, MPH

This article reports on the positive impact of personal health coaching on quality outcomes—improved glycemic control—and overall patient satisfaction.

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- 95 BOOK REVIEWS

*CME Evaluation Form
now online —
see page 3 for details.*

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- 45 ***Clostridium difficile* Colitis: Reduced Time to Diagnosis in a Community-Based Outpatient Setting Between 1997 and 2004.**
Charles S Salemi, MD, MPH; Timothy D Jenkins, MD, FACP; Andres Aguirre, MPH; Annie Cao, PharmD; Gisela Villaruel; John Morgan, DrPH; Andrew Simental, PharmD

A study of two time periods about 7-8 years apart showed that there was substantial shortening of time to diagnosis of *Clostridium difficile* colitis in outpatients. The major risk factor is antecedent antibiotic use, including metronidazole.

- 50 **Which Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Patients Will Be Likely to Attend Consistently a Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program?**
Salwa E Hassanein, PhD, RN; Georgia L Narsavage, PhD, APRN, FAAN; Sherrie Dixon Williams, MD, MHS; Mary K Anthony, PhD, RN; Lisaann S Gittner, MSc

With a view of optimizing use of limited resources, this study examines a variety of traits potentially predictive of good attendance at specialized pulmonary rehabilitation classes. Several are identified. Continued smoking is the greatest predictor of low attendance.

SOUL OF THE HEALER

Original Visual Art

- 21 **"Tulip Study"**
Carol Nelson

- 29 **"Carefree Days"**
Ming Jing (Mike) Wang, MD

- 49 **"Central Park in Spanish Harlem"**
Frank Lee, MD

- 61 **"Early Fall Maples"**
James P Rathmell, MD

Original Literary Art

- 89 **TapTap.**
Pierre Richard Arty, MD

REVIEW ARTICLE

- 54 **The Argument for Use of Epidural Steroid Injections in Management of Acute Radicular Pain.**

James P Rathmell, MD

Studies fail to show that epidural steroid injections reduce long-term pain. Their role is simply to facilitate earlier pain relief and return to full function.

CASE STUDY

- 57 **Finding the Words: Literacy and Traditional Vietnamese Medicine.**

Emily King

Through an ethnographic interview, a medical student understands the issues facing a Vietnamese patient and states her resolve for her future in medicine.

CLINICAL MEDICINE

Corridor Consult

- 62 **Anal Fissure: A Common Cause of Anal Pain.**

Herman Villalba, MD; Sabrina Villalba, MD; Maher A Abbas, MD, FACS, FASCRS

Most anal fissures heal spontaneously though may require medicated ointment and fiber supplementation. Illustrations of the anatomy and surgical technique elucidate explanation.



Book Reviews
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COMMENTARIES

- 66 **Katrina: Health Care System Recovery, Reform, and Renaissance.**

Julie C Morial, MD, MPH

Two years after Katrina a disturbing portrait of Louisiana health care emerges. After a review of the current health system, the primary recommendation is to promote primary and preventive care delivery.



- 71 **Continuing Medical Education and Maintenance of Certification: Essential Links.**

Eric S Holmboe, MD; Christine Cassel, MD

Leaders of the American Board of Internal Medicine explain that physicians' active self-assessment, and evaluation of their daily clinical behaviors, are required learning to improve their practice.

- 76 **Story-Based Health Policy: An Interview with Fitzhugh Mullan, MD.**

Jon Stewart

Dr Mullan's story of the death of his father in a system of uncoordinated care exemplifies the power of personal narrative to strongly influence health policy.

EDITORIALS

- 79 **The Importance of Graduate Medical Education for Permanent Physicians, Kaiser Permanente, and American Medicine.**

Scott Rasgon, MD

KP GME leaders highlight a six-decade experience and its future impact on American medicine through training in an integrated system, with a comprehensive electronic patient database, and preventive care.

- 88 **Social Science Interventions in Medicine Produce Medical Science Outcomes.**

Tom Janisse, MD

Scientific disciplines like psychology, sociology, and anthropology contribute significantly to medical practice and to the objective outcomes sought through medical science.