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 inspired by the idea of using radiography to photograph objects. The idea further developed when she began work at a mammography project at Cypress College, 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.

10 Percutaneous Pneumolysis Stability and Clinical Use Over Time, Eric Macy, MD, CKLin, PhD; Bruce Goldberg, MD, PhD

Because of unsatisfactory results for percutaneous pneumolysis, Ms Matthews used a new technique that improved the results and was comparable to those with materials previously used.

11 A Multidisciplinary Approach to Transition Care: A Patient Safety Innovation Study, Jerr McCall, MS, RN, ND; Douglas A Conner, PhD; Thomas M Delante, PhD; MS, Elizabeth A Chester, PharmD, Carol Ann Barnes, MS, PT, CES

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

12 Introducing Narrative Practices in a Locked, Inpatient Psychiatric Unit, Louis Meli-Malduina, MD, PhD

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

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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 Narasavage, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

79 The Importance of Graduate Medical Education for Permanente 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.

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Tom Janisse, MD

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