

always been the ones to point out the quickest shortcuts to navigating the EMR or the best cellphone apps for drug compendiums and risk calculators. And then there is the obvious satisfaction of watching medical students progress clinically. Some stay on through the training programs as residents and fellows and develop their own teaching skills. Many go on to become well-respected physicians within the community and accomplished faculty colleagues. Each of them is the amalgam of countless clinical interactions with faculty, those little clinical pearls,

the nuances of the physical exam or the individual approaches to difficult patient discussions and decisions.

This issue of the RIMJ includes an interesting Q&A with members of the Clinical Faculty Advisory Committee discussing the mentoring process and opportunities for clinical faculty at the Alpert Medical School. I would recommend this article and accompanying links to anyone curious about becoming a clinical faculty mentor. Other than direct patient care, it can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your career. ❖

#### Author

Kenneth S. Korr, MD, FACC,  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Medicine,  
Alpert Medical School of Brown University; Associate Editor of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal*.

#### Correspondence

[kkorr@lifespan.org](mailto:kkorr@lifespan.org)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### On the Practice of Medicine

Thirty-nine years ago when I entered practice, the retiring doctor I had joined put his arm around my shoulders and told me he had seen the best days of medicine and he felt sorry for my generation of physicians. I remember thinking, what does he know? Now as I contemplate my own retirement and take stock of my career, I find myself echoing those exact sentiments! But then I realize that no matter what “they” do to the structural practice of medicine, no matter how many challenges we are forced to accept, no matter how our livelihood is impacted, there is one thing that can never be taken away from physicians, and this gets right to the core

of what being a physician is about. That, of course, is the privilege and duty to touch the life of another human being, and to be touched in return. This, for me, is the essence of being a physician, and, at the end of the day, what helps me look forward to tomorrow. So the next generations will have the best days of medicine as well.

Barry Wepman, MD

*Dr. Wepman is an Ophthalmologist, practicing in South County, working under the aegis of Koch Eye Associates.*