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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Students, Residents, Faculty, and Friends of the Forum,

We are excited to present you with the 16th annual edition of The Medicine Forum. This work is a culmination of months of effort on the part of medical students, residents, fellows and faculty to share clinical pearls from the last year of their experiences.

Amongst the greatest strengths of medical professionals and patients alike is the ability to tell stories. Stories, and how they are told form the basis of medical care. The way in which a particular patient's story unfolds has a lasting impact on physicians, trainees, other medical staff, and perhaps most importantly, on future patients. Stories of patient cases formed the earliest beginnings of evidence-based medicine. There is a Babylonian tablet dating earlier than 6000 B.C.E. which describes a case of "dropsy", for the instruction of patients of this condition.¹ Stories told amongst practitioners of medicine date back to the first published medical journal, the *Acta Medicorum Berolinensium*, from Berlin in 1722.²

In today's era of information technology, the amount of information collected, analyzed and reported in medicine is beyond the scope of any one physician to even be aware of, let alone to read. In 2001 alone, the total number of articles indexed on MEDLINE was over 400,000.³ Burgeoning topics in how the evidence base is gathered in medicine include the use of Big Data analytic methods to provide patients and physicians with real time data on outcomes as a tool of medical decision making. While these efforts are in progress, the art and the science of medicine continue to rely upon experience from patient stories, both our own, and from those of others.

In the Forum this year, we present a collection of stories, namely patient cases, which highlight the process of differential diagnosis, novel associations, and medical decision making. We would like to thank our contributors for their commitment to scholarship, our editorial staff for their attention to detail, the Media department for the artistic expertise, and the Department of Medicine for funding support. We hope you will enjoy reading the stories presented here, and that they will be instructive in your future practice.

From the Editors-in-Chief,

Anusha G. Govind, MD
Loheetha Ragupathi, MD
Michael A. Valentino, MD, PhD

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