

Please send us your comments and opinions. / Nous serons heureux de recevoir vos commentaires et opinions. Letters to the editor should be addressed to: / Prière de faire parvenir les lettres à la rédaction à l'adresse suivante : *CJRM*, 45 Overlea Blvd., P.O. Box 22015, Toronto ON M4H 1N9; fax 416 961-8271; cjrm@cjrm.net

ADVANCED CARE BY RURAL PHYSICIANS

Thank you for mentioning me in the Fall 2012 editorial¹ as someone who learned and applies a specialized skill (caudal epidural injection) not usually considered within the realm of expertise of rural physicians.

I was lucky that my first job as a family physician was with an older doctor who took the view that it was our job to provide what patients needed. He realized that low back pain was not

treated well and took it upon himself to learn some chiropractic techniques. That approach inspired me, so I did the same. I then expanded to various injection treatments as I saw the need. The longer a patient with back pain is off work, the less likely he or she is to ever recover. Therefore, prompt treatment is imperative. Waiting several months for an appointment at a pain clinic is simply no good, so the responsibility is on primary care physicians to provide the necessary treatment.

The philosophy of patient-centred care demands that we equip ourselves with whatever skills we need to provide that care, especially if those skills are not available elsewhere within a reasonable time frame.

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REFERENCE

1. Hutten-Czapski P. Occasional musings. *Can J Rural Med* 2012;17:119.

DOCTORS SPEAK OUT

Podium – Letters to the Editor – Editorials

We invite physicians to speak out on issues that concern them. Send your submissions to Suzanne Kingsmill, Managing Editor, *CJRM*, 45 Overlea Blvd., P.O. Box 22015, Toronto ON M4H 1N9; cjrm@cjrm.net

LES MÉDECINS S'EXPRIMENT

La parole aux médecins – Lettres à la rédaction – Éditoriaux

Nous invitons les médecins à commenter les questions qui les intéressent. Faites parvenir vos textes à Suzanne Kingsmill, rédactrice administrative, *JCMR*, 45, boul. Overlea, C. P. 22015, Toronto (Ontario) M4H 1N9; cjrm@cjrm.net