

BCM J

BC Medical Journal

Letters for Personal View are welcomed. They should be double-spaced and fewer than 300 words. The *BCM J* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Letters may be e-mailed (journal@bcma.bc.ca), faxed (604 638-2917), or sent through the post.

Driving assessments

I read the article in the *Medical Post* (26 September 2008) about problems with physicians assessing their patients' ability to drive when often there are mixed feelings between loyalty to patients and sparing the lives or skins of other road users.

There are two solutions. The cost of running a car—insurance, repairs, fuel, and depreciation—has been calculated as \$7000+ a year. You can buy a lot of taxi rides for that!

Anybody over 75 who chooses to spend that sum on a car should be able to afford proper testing, both by an independent physician (not the attending physician!) similar to those designated by Transport Canada to assess mariners and pilots (\$171 in BC), as well as having a practical road test (\$50 in BC). Of the two, the practical road test would probably save more lives and accidents!

—Rodney Glynn-Morris, MD
West Vancouver

Chiropractors take exception to letter

These are just two of several responses we received from chiropractors regarding Dr Farquhar's letter about his experience with a chiropractor. —ED

I would like to respond to a letter by Dr Farquhar in the October *BCM J* [50(8):436]. As a chiropractor I read this article and found the behavior of this individual reprehensible. I assume you have had dealings with other chiropractors in Kelowna and know that this type of salesmanship is not the norm. As a profession we have made great strides over the last decades and hold research chairs at major universities (UBC, U of C, and U of T, for example) and work in collaboration with other health care professionals on a daily basis. I am from a family of chiropractors and I take stories such as this extremely personally and regret that this person holds a licence to practise and demeans what my father,

grandfather, and uncle worked so hard for. As in all professions, there is only so much that can be controlled, and as long as one operates in the grey areas and crosses ethical rather than legal lines, not much can be done. I suppose the silver lining is that eventually word-of-mouth will be his undoing.

—Mark Strudwick, DC
Victoria

Just as there are many different MDs, there are many different DCs. Your experience was from one chiropractor. I suggest you either change the name of your article to “One chiropractic visit (further studies and visits needed)” or “How one chiropractor practises.”

Based on my experiences, I too could write a scathing story of MDs, dentists, RMTs, and yes, even chiropractors; however, I understand there are many people practising these disciplines, and to write blanket statements would do all of these professions a great injustice. Maybe you should go back to the person who referred your daughter and ask her why she told her to get adjusted!

—Kevin Ehl, DC
Port Moody

Three good guys

I would like to congratulate Lou Benedet for his article “Drs Krisman, Nickerson, and Carpenter: Three truly good guys” [*BCM J* 2008; 50(8):462]. I had the privilege to have these gentlemen (and gentlemen they were) as my teachers. I have only good memories, and am still grateful to them for their teaching skills, their patience, and their friendship.

Well done Lou—a great article.

—Ed Pankratz, MD
Abbotsford