

An Editor's Invitation: Endings and Beginnings

Category: Endings and Beginnings, More Voices

written by Paul Gross | December 1, 2020

Dear *Pulse* readers,

A colleague who is leaving our practice for California asked me today if I would be willing to assume the care of one of his patients—someone who asked him specifically if I could become her new doctor.

I warily perused her chart and counted forty-one medical problems, from the trivial to the life-threatening, anxiety prominent among them. She seemed a busy bee of a patient, with eleven appointments scheduled for this coming month alone. *She's keeping a lot of doctors hopping*, I thought. *And soon enough, I'll be one of them.*

While my colleague was saying good-bye to this person, I would soon be saying hello. Endings and beginnings. And I know from experience that her chart tells me little about the person I will meet. She could be an inconsolable bundle of nerves. She could be warm and absolutely delightful.

She and I will each buckle our seatbelts for our journey together and see what it brings us—assuming it gets started at all. It's entirely possible that she comes in for an urgent-care visit tomorrow—for a rash or a stiff neck—receives great care from yet another colleague and decides to kick Dr. Gross to the curb.

December's *More Voices* theme is Endings and Beginnings, a particularly appropriate theme for the last month of the year, for the end of a Presidential administration and for the glimmer of hope that COVID-19, which has consumed our lives for the better part of 2020, may actually start to recede in 2021.

The story of health care is the story of endings and beginnings: deaths and births, illnesses and recoveries, an end of one way of living and the start of another.

What healthcare-related endings and beginnings have you experienced lately or are you looking forward to? Send a story of your lived experience to *More Voices*. You can look at last month's theme, [Choosing](#), to see what others have shared.

For more details, visit [More Voices FAQs](#)—or go directly to the [More Voices Submission Form](#). Remember, your healthcare-related story should be 40-400 words. And no poetry, please.

Sincerely,
Paul Gross
Editor