



COUNTRY DOCTOR

When the new residents start the next academic year, it will be 60 years since the unforgettable photo essay, “Country Doctor,” was published in *Life* magazine, Sept. 20, 1948. It still evokes the essence of the hardworking “GP” who was called on to care for patients from birth to their last breath. The photographer, W. Eugene Smith, spent weeks with Dr. Ernest Ceriani, who cared for patients in and far beyond the small town of Kremmling, Colo. “Country Doctor” is an enduring portrait of the family physician. This issue presents some of the iconic images from “Country Doctor,” in tribute to family medicine’s legacy.

Linda K. Hengstler, Editorial Director

Dr. Ernest Ceriani, in the hospital emergency room, has just stitched up the head of a 2-year-old girl after she was kicked by a horse ▶



PHOTOS BY W. EUGENE SMITH/TIME LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

“Strong Medicine for America”

LETTERS

Your letters in response to our editorial* about the “Strong Medicine for America” effort by the AAFP brought to light the tie that binds all of us, irrespective of our varying personal perspectives—dedication to providing the best care available

Jeff Susman, MD, Editor-in-Chief

The expanded letters section in this issue excerpts as many of your letters as space permits.

* *J Fam Pract.* 2008;57:148

Invest in recruiting, access to care

I work in a county system, and we practice “poverty medicine.” Our staff and residents are committed to care for this population. Many of our grads head out to make a difference in the world, but the barriers to providing basic care at home are insurmountable. My patients don’t need branding, they need top-quality docs and access to care. Please, AAFP and ABFM, spend our money recruiting top-notch docs and help our patients advocate for some form of universal coverage.

Shelly Maramonte, MD, Martinez, Calif