

HUMOR IN MEDICINE

Medical School Follies

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In my editorial last year (*Humor in the medical literature. J Fam Pract 1995; 40:334-5*), I mentioned that we would like to feature more humor by medical students. The easiest way to accomplish this is to publish some of the material students write for their annual school follies. Although skits and monologues do not translate well to the printed page, spoofs of popular songs do nicely in this medium. To encourage students to submit their work (or for practicing docs to send in pieces they wrote in medical school), I thought I would include another song I wrote when I was a student. It deals with a subject near and dear to all of us.

You Can't Hurry Blood

(To be sung to the tune of "You Can't Hurry Love" by The Supremes)

I need blood, blood to ease my mind
I need to find, find a vein to call mine
My intern said, You can't hurry blood
No, you just have to wait
She said, Blood don't come easy
It's a game of jab and take
You can't hurry blood
No, you just have to wait
You've gotta thrust—give it time
No matter how long it takes

But how many misses must I stand
Before I find the vein that lets me sleep again?
Right now the only thing
That keeps me hangin' on
When I blow a vein
And it's almost dawn
I remember Sally said
Blood, you just have to wait
She said, Blood don't come easy

It's a game of jab and take
How long must I wait?
How many tubes must I take?
Before weariness will cause
My back, back to break

Now I can't bear to do this scut alone
I grow impatient for a third year
To call my own
But when I feel that I
I-I can't go on
Those precious grades keep me hangin' on
I remember Sally said
Blood, you just have to wait
She said, Blood don't come easy
It's a game of jab and take
You can't hurry blood
No, you just have to wait
She said, Thrust—give it time
No matter how long it takes

Now blood, blood don't come easy
But I keep on waiting, and vacutaining
For that red stuff to come to me at night
For some juicy veins to stand up taa-ait
I keep waiting
I keep on waiting
But it ain't easy, it ain't easy
My intern said, You can't hurry blood
No, you just have to wait
She said, Thrust—give it time
No matter how long it takes
You can't hurry blood
No, you just have to wait. . .

'HUMOR IN MEDICINE' ANECDOTE CONTEST

Do you have an amusing anecdote about one of your experiences in medicine? It can involve anything from patient care to embarrassing moments in medical school. Between now and December 1996, submit your comic morsels of up to 250 words to Anecdote Contest, c/o Howard J. Bennett, MD, Humor in Medicine Editor, 2820 McKinley Place, NW, Washington, DC 20015. Be sure to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Submissions may be abridged or edited in accordance with *JFP* style. Accepted anecdotes will appear in future issues of *JFP*. If your entry is among the top five, you will receive a free copy of the 2nd edition of Dr Bennett's book *The Best of Medical Humor*.

From the Departments of Health Care Sciences and Pediatrics, The George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, DC. Correspondence should be addressed to Howard J. Bennett, MD, 2820 McKinley Pl, NW, Washington, DC 20015. Dr Bennett is the editor of *The Best of Medical Humor: A Collection of Articles, Essays, Poetry and Letters Published in the Medical Literature*.