Patient and Caregiver Viewpoints

The Editors of Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes are pleased to announce a new Patient or Caregiver Viewpoint section in the Journal. Viewpoints will be authored by patients or their friends or family members and will discuss the patient’s experience of cardiovascular disease and interactions with the healthcare system.

For example, in this issue of the Journal, a patient with coronary artery disease discusses how he perceived his interactions with his physicians and his concerns about the lack of attention to his values and goals. In a future issue, we expect to publish the reflections of 2 sisters on their father’s experience of a complication in connection with an ICD lead replacement and how they experienced the decision-making process and the message that they want to share about how it might be improved.

In keeping with the scope of the Journal, we hope that many Viewpoints will contain insights from the patient’s perspective along with suggestions on how to improve clinical care and healthcare delivery. We also seek Viewpoints that explore the effects of illness and treatment on patients’ lives or that discuss aspects of a condition that are important to patients but may not be fully appreciated by clinicians. Topics could include communication, decision making, patient centeredness, access, cost, timeliness, safety, equity, and quality of care. We think that patients’ health experiences can be a source of knowledge on how to improve healthcare services and hope these articles will inspire patients and healthcare providers to work collaboratively toward that end.

Viewpoints will be written in a conversational style and with a minimum of medical jargon so as to be accessible to both clinicians and patients and their families. We hope to make Viewpoints a regular feature in the Journal. Accordingly, we strongly encourage patients living with or at risk of any type of cardiovascular disease, or their friends and family members, to submit to the Journal. Instructions to authors are posted on our Web site (http://circoutcomes.ahajournals.org/site/misc/ifora.xhtml).

Marilyn K. Mann, JD
Harlan M. Krumholz, MD, SM