

Letters to the Editor

Osler's gravest prognosis

I always enjoy Dr. Bryan's erudition and historical references in his offerings, but this time I must comment on his closing paragraphs in Osler's gravest prognosis: Extinction (*The Pharos*, Winter 2024, pp. 19-23).

Dr. Osler's address of 1896 was to the American Medical Association, and this article is written to *The Pharos*, so I assume Dr. Bryan is recommending his warning about eliminating nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as attacking global warming to the house of medicine, not society at large.

We, as organized physicians, could more profitably work for improving personal patient care than pursuing the "enforceable global political solutions" Dr. Bryan recommends. I now receive medical care and see it from the patient's eyes. I can assure you the house of medicine has serious deficiencies to address.

The impersonal, seemingly uncaring dispensing of care as a product from "providers;" the unavailability of a doctor after 5 p.m.; the endless weekend waits in emergency rooms for non-emergency issues; the scarcity of a technician for a Doppler exam outside of a tertiary center; the outrageous cost of health care in general; and other problems we all know and hear about from our friends. These all are more pressing and more appropriate for us as physicians to be addressing than Dr. Bryan's solution and the chimera of greenhouse gases.

Let individual physicians who are so concerned volunteer for those international problems, and let the house of medicine address these pressing and solvable medical issues at home.

W. McA. Davis, MD
AQA, Medical University of South Carolina
College of Medicine, 1961
Spartanburg, SC

Brick by brick

As a physician who was involved in hemodialysis in the 1960s in a safety net hospital, I read Dr. Lessing's essay, "Brick by brick: The advocacy journey of Dr. Lilia Cervantes," (*The Pharos*, Spring, 2024, pp. 14-20), with emotion and admiration. Her work shows our profession at its finest.

At a time when much is being written about the need for medical leadership, Dr. Cervantes offers hope. Dr. Lessing's essay should be on the reading list of every medical school's Medicine in Contemporary Society course.

Martin R. Liebowitz, MD
AQA, New York University, 1955
East Setauket, NY