



CURES AND CARE

I really enjoyed “Where are the Cures?” (summer 2011). I am a patient advocate for a rare muscle disease and the future of getting to a treatment seems so far away. I was delighted to hear about the Clinical Trials Office at U-M as well as the Ravitz Center. Keep up the good work.

Sarah F.

I received Bexxar (“Whatever Happened to Bexxar?” summer 2011) at Vanderbilt University Hospital in 2010 at the urging of my oncologist. I had traditional chemo prior to this. My doctor presented my case to her colleagues with a request to also use Bexxar as a part of my therapy. I feel confident that Bexxar works. I wish more patients were afforded the opportunity for this treatment.

Robert E. Sgarlata

I am here today because Dr. Kaminiski gave me Bexxar! Apparently he is a doctor that cares more about his

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patients than his salary. It is sad to think that people are suffering so other doctors can make more money!

James J. Harris

RISKY BUSINESS

I enjoyed the article about the risk of radiation, “Relative Risk,” in the summer edition of *Medicine at Michigan*. You interviewed three of our excellent radiologists. However, in the section “How is radiation used in patient treatments,” it would be important to note that the nuclear medicine physicians are only part of the story. There is an entire discipline called radiation oncology that is focused on the use of radiation for treatment. For instance, in the last paragraph of the treatment section it says, “There is also an intermediate method used in nuclear medicine, and that’s to implant radioactive seeds.” This procedure is not performed by nuclear medicine physicians, but by radiation oncologists.

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Analysis and mitigation of risk are the very pith and marrow of medicine, from surgery to public health. How we analyze and communicate attributable risk is a critical component of our daily interactions with data and with human beings. That is why I felt uncomfortable with the cavalier tone in the article “Relative Risk” (summer 2011). The authors implied that “concerns” about radiation risk are based upon “lack of information” or information from a “non-scientific source.” Instead of scoffing at the way the uneducated

masses evaluate risk, it might be better to acknowledge the risk, respect the concern, and proceed with humility and caution.

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RELATIVE HISTORY

It was very nice to see photos of the first University Hospital (“Michigan’s First University Hospital,” summer 2011) but that was a little before my time. I was a resident in the 1950s and it would be a really nice trip down memory lane to see an article about the University Hospital in existence at that time — with photos.

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Old Main

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