

“The greater the ignorance the greater the dogmatism”
Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement was all set to go when it was displaced by something I read this morning which has a pressing timeliness to it. This week's acknowledgement goes to our surgical colleague Sherif Emil.

I had already made the decision when I received this email from Rick Haber which is copied below and is self-explanatory for this selection.

"I would like to suggest Sherif Emil for departmental acknowledgement for his excellent op-ed piece in the Gazette this morning opposing the legalization of euthanasia. As you know both Sherif and I presented briefs at the Commission, Mourir dans la dignite, arguing against the legalization of euthanasia from a pediatric perspective. Our briefs, along with all those against legalization, were ignored. The commissioners had obviously made up their minds before hearing the briefs. Stephen Liben and I also presented a workshop at the CPS AGM two years ago which was very well attended, especially with young trainees obviously deeply interested in the topic. I think this issue is a watershed moral issue for

with the Physician Apprenticeship program where the total
g and compassion, I think legalizing euthanasia will have a very serious impact on
teach those values which have been at the heart of medicine since Hippocrates."

hanasia is a difficult moral issue. I applaud the efforts of Sherif, Rick and Stephen
debate and provide their own medical perspectives. Health professionals should be
advocacy role in health issues when it comes to their expertise as it relates to
s. Our experience should count. We should be willing to speak out on those issues
h we care about. There are indeed times when we should leave our cocoon of
the soap box. There may be some amongst us who disagree with the position taken