LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editorial Freedom

Editor's Note: A letter describing the views of SGIM's Council about Dr. Lundberg's dismissal is in the March issue of Forum (Forum. 1999;22(3):5).

JGIM welcomes your letters and comments. Letters may contain brief commentaries on articles published in the Journal, illustrative case reports, general suggestions for improving the Journal, or other information of interest to readers. Letters to the Editor should not exceed 450 words in length and should be sent in triplicate (typed, double-spaced). We cannot guarantee publication and we may edit to improve readability.

You may send your letters to us by mail, fax, or e-mail: JGIM, Veterans Affairs Medical Center (JGIM-111), University and Woodland Avenues, Philadelphia, PA 19104; fax: 215-823-4450; e-mail: jgim@mail.med.upenn.edu.

To the Editor:—As a generalist physician who tries to practice evidence-based medicine, as an Associate Editor of *JGIM*, and as an investigator who has presented at two of the three International Meetings for Peer Review, I find the firing of Dr. Lundberg appalling and disheartening. It is appalling because it represents yet another assault on the editorial freedom of biomedical journals. The claim by Dr. Anderson to the contrary has no reasonable basis. Yes, the “offending” article was published, but we can all see that any future editor at *JAMA* would think twice before publishing an article that might offend influential elements within the AMA. Even more concerning, this action may have an effect beyond *JAMA*; editors at other biomedical journals sponsored by medical societies may also think twice. It is disheartening because Dr. Lundberg is a man of vision. He realized what a wonderful resource *JAMA* could be and gave his all to help *JAMA* achieve its potential. He surrounded himself with talented people and brought the best out in them. He was wonderfully successful as an editor and as an administrator and should be appreciated and honored for his contributions rather than summarily dismissed. If this is how medical societies treat their best and brightest, why should talented people choose to be journal editors?—**AMY C. JUSTICE, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Staff Physician, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pittsburgh, Pa.