

## Letters

**What an awesome article** ["Man on Fire," Winter 2020]. I love the pictures, video interviews, and layout of the whole piece. Great job to you and your team at Emory. Mr. Jalen Richardson is a true fighter and an inspiration for many.

**Capt. Dion Bentley**

PIO, DeKalb Fire Rescue

**I read with great interest** the story of Jalen ["Man on Fire," Winter 2020]. As a graduate of Emory's cardiac surgery program and a Harley rider, I can relate to what happened to him. Riding in a large group demands that rider etiquette be followed. In my experience, a rider "edging" his way in unfortunately isn't unusual. The suffering Jalen went through could not ever be compensated.

**Dale Waters, MD**

Sandia Park, NM

**[Man on Fire, Winter 2020] is an incredibly amazing work of journalism** that transported me into this man's world of brutal trauma and recovery through the help of dedicated, compassionate physicians and the unconditional love of a dog. WOW! Just WOW! I like to think how this story will help other burn victims to learn, endure, and eventually thrive.

**Karen Thurston**

San Diego, CA

**I want you and your staff to know** that I found this feature ["Man on Fire," Winter 2020] to be one of the finest pieces of journalism I have ever experienced. A heart-warming example of how Emory and its thousands of caring members have changed lives. As a former student and house officer (Emory College 1967, medical school 1971, general surgery

*I felt connected to Richardson's journey from beginning to end, the emotions, his road to recovery, and I also felt very proud to be a part of an organization with such talented physicians as Dr. Juvonda Hodge.*

NICOLE SMITH, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,  
EMORY SAINT JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, ATLANTA

resident 1973, and urology 1976), I am proud of the tradition of excellence that you featured in this essay.

**Charles M. Holman Jr. 71M 73R 76F**  
Ocean Springs, MS

**Your words [Man on Fire, Winter 2020] held me captive from beginning to end.** This was truly a well written story. The videos, the educational pieces, and the pictures were fantastic. I felt connected to Richardson's journey from beginning to end, the emotions, his road to recovery, and I also felt very proud to be a part of an organization with such talented physicians as Dr. Juvonda "Mama Hodge" (as Jalen called her). I wanted to let you know that I appreciate senior staff writer Kimber Williams for writing such an amazing piece!

**Nicole Smith**

Administrative Assistant,  
Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital  
Atlanta

**I'm retired, am social distancing, and am catching up on reading my Annals of Thoracic Surgery back issues.** I do miss surgery, which has changed dramatically, and will forever be indebted to Drs. Charles Hatcher, Ellis Jones, Joe Craver, Kamal Mansour, and all my other Emory medical professors for



giving me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of doing surgery. *Emory Medicine* magazine remains superb. As a medical student and for several years afterward, I contributed essays to its forerunner, *Medicine at Emory*. Dr. Tom Sellers was wonderful to work with.

I have hosted a monthly Art of Medicine Rounds series at the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Tuscaloosa since 2012, which was created to remind health professionals of the reason they entered their fields: people. The practice of medicine is far more than diseases, laboratory and X-ray findings, operations, and medications. A well-rounded physician must not only know how to prescribe medications but also to listen to patients' concerns. Music, art, sculpture, and dance might not at first be thought of as integral to the practice of medicine, but the humanities can in fact help connect students with teachers, colleagues with peers, and patients with physicians.

**Alan Blum**

Professor and Gerald Leon Wallace  
Endowed Chair in Family Medicine  
University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, AL

**We like to hear from you. Send us your comments, questions, suggestions, and castigations.**

Address correspondence to *Emory Medicine* magazine, 1762 Clifton Road, Suite 1000, Atlanta, GA 30322; call 404.727.0161; or email [mloftus@emory.edu](mailto:mloftus@emory.edu).