NOTICE: This document contains correspondence generated during peer review and subsequent revisions but before transmittal to production for composition and copyediting:

- Comments from the reviewers and editors (email to author requesting revisions)
- Response from the author (cover letter submitted with revised manuscript)*

*The corresponding author has opted to make this information publicly available.

Personal or nonessential information may be redacted at the editor’s discretion.

Questions about these materials may be directed to the Obstetrics & Gynecology editorial office: obgyn@greenjournal.org.
RE: Manuscript Number ONG-20-634
Life in Epidemics: Infections Change, Front Line Docs Remain the Same

Dear Dr. Minkoff:

Your manuscript has been rapidly reviewed by the Editors. We would like to pursue fast-track publication. If you can address the comments below and submit your revision quickly, the Editorial Office will start working on it as soon as possible. I am setting the due date to April 20, but we will start working on it whenever you can submit.

If you wish to consider revising your manuscript, you will first need to study carefully the enclosed reports submitted by the referees and editors. Each point raised requires a response, by either revising your manuscript or making a clear and convincing argument as to why no revision is needed. To facilitate our review, we prefer that the cover letter include the comments made by the reviewers and the editor followed by your response. The revised manuscript should indicate the position of all changes made. We suggest that you use the “track changes” feature in your word processing software to do so (rather than strikethrough or underline formatting).

REVIEWER COMMENTS:

Reviewer #1: A timely narrative on the ethics of medicine and the present pandemic with a past perspective from the HIV epidemic. Thoughtfully written and encouraging words for our profession.

Reviewer #2: Well written, thought provoking commentary that pays tribute to those clinicians who have been in the battle against epidemics for decades and to those new to the fight.

Reviewer #5: I greatly appreciate your perspective and the way you’ve tied this two infectious diseases together, the political and health care system responses. I particularly value your celebration of the young doctors. Two small things to consider, neither of which are required changes:
1. Could you expand a bit in the last paragraph on who Dr. Li was? Some may not recognize his name.
2. Would you consider saying anything about other health care workers such as advanced practice providers, nurses, sonographers, etc? Just a brief acknowledgement of their role?

Thank you again for your contribution--to the Journal and your community.

EDITOR COMMENTS:

1. The Editors of Obstetrics & Gynecology are seeking to increase transparency around its peer-review process, in line with efforts to do so in international biomedical peer review publishing. If your article is accepted, we will be posting this revision letter as supplemental digital content to the published article online. Additionally, unless you choose to opt out, we will also be including your point-by-point response to the revision letter. If you opt out of including your response, only the revision letter will be posted. Please reply to this letter with one of two responses:
   A. OPT-IN: Yes, please publish my point-by-point response letter.
   B. OPT-OUT: No, please do not publish my point-by-point response letter.

2. Specific rules govern the use of acknowledgments in the journal. Please note the following guidelines:
   * All financial support of the study must be acknowledged.
   * Any and all manuscript preparation assistance, including but not limited to topic development, data collection, analysis, writing, or editorial assistance, must be disclosed in the acknowledgments. Such acknowledgments must identify the entities that provided and paid for this assistance, whether directly or indirectly.
   * All persons who contributed to the work reported in the manuscript, but not sufficiently to be authors, must be
acknowledged. Written permission must be obtained from all individuals named in the acknowledgments, as readers may infer their endorsement of the data and conclusions. Please note that your response in the journal's electronic author form verifies that permission has been obtained from all named persons.

* If all or part of the paper was presented at the Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or at any other organizational meeting, that presentation should be noted (include the exact dates and location of the meeting).

3. Authors whose manuscripts have been accepted for publication have the option to pay an article processing charge and publish open access. With this choice, articles are made freely available online immediately upon publication. An information sheet is available at http://links.lww.com/LWW-ES/A48. The cost for publishing an article as open access can be found at http://edmgr.ovid.com/acd/accounts/ifauth.htm.

Please note that if your article is accepted, you will receive an email from the editorial office asking you to choose a publication route (traditional or open access). Please keep an eye out for that future email and be sure to respond to it promptly.

If you choose to revise your manuscript, please submit your revision through Editorial Manager at http://ong.editorialmanager.com. Your manuscript should be uploaded in a word processing format such as Microsoft Word. Your revision's cover letter should include the following:

* A confirmation that you have read the Instructions for Authors (http://edmgr.ovid.com/ong/accounts/authors.pdf),

* A point-by-point response to each of the received comments in this letter.

If you submit a revision, we will assume that it has been developed in consultation with your co-authors and that each author has given approval to the final form of the revision.

***Again, your paper will be maintained in active status for 30 days from the date of this letter. If we have not heard from you by April 20, we will assume you wish to withdraw the manuscript from further consideration.***

Sincerely,

The Editors of Obstetrics & Gynecology

2018 IMPACT FACTOR: 4.965
2018 IMPACT FACTOR RANKING: 7th out of 83 ob/gyn journals

In compliance with data protection regulations, you may request that we remove your personal registration details at any time. (Use the following URL: https://www.editorialmanager.com/ong/login.asp?a=r). Please contact the publication office if you have any questions.
I would like to thank the reviewers for their quite generous comments, and to offer the following specific responses:

Reviewer 1: *Timely narrative on the ethics of medicine and the present pandemic with a past perspective from the HIV epidemic. Thoughtfully written and encouraging words for our profession.*

I appreciate these kind words.

Reviewer 2: *Well written, thought provoking commentary that pays tribute to those clinicians who have been in the battle against epidemics for decades and to those new to the fight.*

Again, I appreciate the generosity of the reviewer.

Reviewer 5: *I greatly appreciate your perspective and the way you've tied this two infectious diseases together, the political and health care system responses. I particularly value your celebration of the young doctors. Two small things to consider, neither of which are required changes: 1. Could you expand a bit in the last paragraph on who Dr. Li was? Some may not recognize his name. 2. Would you consider saying anything about other health care workers such as advanced practice providers, nurses, sonographers, etc? Just a brief acknowledgement of their role?*

I have added a phrase to clarify who Dr. Li was, and I have acknowledge the role of the many health professionals who deserve to be valorized for what they have done, and what they continue to do.

I have also added a reference that I had inadvertently cut from the originally submitted draft. It refers to a sentence that was similar to one I had written for an article I co-authored several years ago, and I wouldn't want anyone to think that I plagiarized myself.

Finally, I noticed two minor typos. Page 4, line 5: added an “i” to “polices,” and on the last line of the same page I added an “us” to, four “of” us.

Thank you for your willingness to consider these modifications. Howard