**Book Review: My Father's Wake: How the Irish teach us to live, love and die by Kevin Toolis**

by Rebecca Gagne Henderson (@RebeccaGagne) The tone and theme of this book is set with the profound and moving epigraph from the Iliad: "The generations of men are like generations of leaves. The wind scatters one year's leaves on to the earth, but when Spring comes the luxuriant forest produces other leaves; so it is with generations..."

Friday, August 31, 2018 by Pallimed Editor ·

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**Evidence-Based Prognostication**

by Christian Sinclair (@ctsinclair) We are prognosticating beings. It is how we survive. Many everyday decisions begin with an estimation of likely future outcomes. If my first clinic appointment is at 9:15am, and my drive from the hospital to the clinic usually takes 25 minutes, then I need to leave by 8:50am at the latest to give myself...

Monday, August 27, 2018 by Christian Sinclair ·

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**To Resuscitate or Not to Resuscitate**

by Rebecca Omlor (@BeccaOm15) The code bell goes off overhead calling for a rapid attempt to try to bring a patient back to life. Who is on the receiving end? Is it a frail older adult with dementia, a patient with multiple medical problems, or an otherwise healthy adult who recently underwent a cardiac catheterization for a myocardial...

Saturday, August 25, 2018 by Pallimed Editor ·

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**Death Notification as Behavior Modification: Let's think this through**

by Ben Skoch (@skochb) Opioid Problem. Opioid Epidemic. Opioid Crisis. Call it what you will (as long as you don't use the word narcotic, but that's another article), but the United States has a real issue with opioids right now. It has been much talked about, publicized, criticized, politicized, has left some people ostracized, to a point...

Friday, August 24, 2018 by Pallimed Editor ·

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**Talking it Like it is: Advice from a HPM Fellow to all the New Interns**

by Christine Bridges The hallways are full again after a short June reprieve. Starched white coats, cleaner than it ever seemed possible bustle through the hallways, making up in speed what they lack in direction. They fill each space with eager anticipation. It is almost palpable. It is the scent of July. Each furtive glance at the...
Does Colace (docusate) Work For Constipation? No!

by Bob Arnold (@rabob) (This is the first post from the Pallimed Writers Group, a growing group of nearly 20 clinicians who are reviewing landmark studies and important current research. This study was highlighted in the GeriPal Top 25 articles in HPM.- Ed.) Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Oral Docusate in the Management...

Introducing the Pallimed Writers' Group

by Christian Sinclair (@ctsinclair) We used to publish a lot more article reviews here on Pallimed. Sometimes the analysis would be quite deep and sometimes we would just lump together a whole bunch of snippets from key articles. I have been keeping an ever-growing list of articles I would love to write up for the site*, but never seemed to have the time to get to them, and then new ones would come out, that I would want to...

by Christian Sinclair ·

Professional Development for the Whole Team

by Karla Washington (@comokarwash) I entered graduate social work education in 1998. St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Mark McGwire broke the single-season home run record that year. Hearings were held regarding the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, and Céline Dion released a duet with R. Kelly, forming a collaboration that probably...

Saturday, August 18, 2018 by Pallimed Editor ·

Book Review: “The Four Things That Matter Most” by Ira Byock

by Ben Skoch (@skochb) As someone new to the field of hospice and palliative medicine, I recognize that “The Four Things That Matter Most” by Ira Byock has been around for some time. As I sit down to write this review, I’m reminded of a joke from comedian Jim Gaffigan when he referenced people who want to talk about movies many years after...

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 by Pallimed Editor ·

Pallimed Calendar of Conferences and Events

Most of the items on this calendar are focused on significant national or international conferences, but also include some historical events related to our field. Occassionally regional or local conferences may be included. You can sync this calendar with many different software platforms and apps or just pick certain events to add to your...

Sunday, August 12, 2018 by Christian Sinclair ·

Grief and the Healing Property of Time

by Abigail Latimer (@abbie_lcswe) The recent article about the orca carrying her dead calf sparked a flurry of media conversation about grief. As the only palliative clinical social worker in an 800-bed hospital (and former bereavement counselor), I am...
Little Legacies: The Solace and Connectedness of Ellie’s Boxes

by Kristina Newport (@kbnewport) In 2016, the palliative care community lost a dedicated advocate and compassionate caregiver when Eloise “Ellie” Coyne died. She was well-known to the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Community where she held the position of Volunteer Coordinator but her colleagues knew the all different roles she...

How Proposed Changes to Medicare Documentation Regs Can Impact Palliative Care

by Amy Davis (@MaximizeQOL) (CMS open to comments until Sep 10, 2018. See end of post for details. - Ed.) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed sweeping reforms to documentation requirements, clinician reimbursement, and the Quality Payment Program (QPP), to begin in 2019. (1) If approved in their current...

Does Colace (docusate) Work For Constipation? No!
Author Kevin Toolis rides a donkey during his childhood in Dookinella, Co Mayo, on the west coast of Ireland. Author Kevin Toolis rides a donkey during his childhood in Dookinella, Co Mayo, on the west coast of Ireland. Sean O'Hagan. “Death is a whisper in the Anglo-Saxon world,” writes Kevin Toolis in My Father’s Wake. “We don’t want to see the sick, smell the decay of wizened flesh, feel the coldness of the corpse, or hear the cry of keening women. We don’t want to intrude on the dying because we don’t want to look at the mirror of our own death. Why have we lost our way with death?” That question echoes through what is a long meditation on death, dying and our attitudes to mortality – our own and others’. My Father’s Wake. How the Irish Teach Us to Live, Love, and Die. by Kevin Toolis. email. With an uplifting, positive message at its heart, My Father’s Wake celebrates the spiritual depth of the Irish wake and asks if we can find in it a better way to deal with our mortality - by living and loving as the Irish do. Death is a whisper in the Anglo-Saxon world. But on a remote island off the coast of Ireland’s County Mayo, it has a louder voice. Along with reports of incoming Atlantic storms, the local radio runs a daily roll of ordinary deaths. And the islanders go in great numbers, often with young children, to be with their dead. They keep the corpse and the bereaved comp