

The Passy Press

Letter to the Editor

From: kristaps.keggi@undisclosed.com

To: Nick Gardiner enpg@thepassypress.com

Date: December 30, 2014 8:27 p.m. EST

Subject: Essay on Death With Dignity by Charles Hamlin, MD

Dear Sir,

Great essay. Two days ago I was at the funeral of a friend who was diagnosed with an extremely advanced, inoperable carcinoma of the lung and then subjected to five months of tests, tubes, radiation and chemo. Hamlin's words should have been a major consideration in his case as in so many others.

Gone are the days of the family practitioners, who knew their patients, talked to them and did the right thing. The computers and faceless administrators are always watching, judging and disciplining should you revert to the human ways of practicing end of life medicine.

Sincerely,

Kris Keggi, MD

Kristaps Juris Keggi, M.D., Dr. Med. (h.c.) is the Elihu Professor of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation at The Yale University School of Medicine. Born in Latvia, having survived World War II, he arrived in America at fifteen, matriculated at Yale less than two years later and with minor exceptions, such as a year in a Mobile Surgical Hospital ("MASH") in Vietnam, has spent his entire career on its faculty. As a former Yale athlete he is the recipient of the George W. H. Bush Award. He holds four Honorary Degrees, has been active in International Orthopaedic Education, and is the innovator of the Direct Anterior Approach to hip replacements, which he has been practicing for more than forty years.