



April 12, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

My name is Sandy Retzky, and I am the Director of the Office of Orphan Product Development (OOPD) at FDA. I am contacting you about your recent article, “Spotlighting the Zebras: A Role for Medical Students in Shaping Rare Disease Care.”

To maintain our fund of knowledge, every week we run literature searches in five databases with predefined search strings looking for recent articles related to rare diseases. Your article was found in a recent search. Thank you for such a thoughtful, well-written article highlighting an important gap in medical education.

My office publishes an internal newsletter called the Orphan Products Bulletin that circulates within the FDA community. It includes a section called Curation Corner which features a review of the most important articles found in our searches. A review of your article will appear in Curation Corner for our Apr-May issue of the Orphan Products Bulletin. Our Bulletin is not available publicly, but nonetheless, I wanted you to know that your article has already made an impact.

Additionally, my office supports bimonthly Reviewer Meetings for our staff. Please let me know if you would have interest in presenting your work at a Reviewer Meeting. The meetings are virtual, and we record them (with permission) so that anyone at FDA has access. If this is acceptable, please let me know and we can arrange a day and time convenient to your schedules.

Sincerely,

Sandra Retzky, D.O., J.D., MPH  
Director, Office of Orphan Product Development  
Office of Clinical Policy and Programs  
Office of the Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

cc:

J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD, Dean, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine  
David Eidelman, Dean of Medicine, McGill Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences  
Paul Rothman, MD Dean and CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine