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Good analogies, but...

Thank you for the article "Fishing and history taking" in the June issue.¹ I think a combination of—or at least an ability to equally use—both the net and the line are important, especially when dealing with those rare conditions, which occasionally present themselves, that can sometimes only be lured with a net rather than a line!

—Gurjinder S. Bhari MD
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by Rapid Responses

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Choreographing government's agenda

Iwas curious and somewhat mystified to read Dr Kenneth Kirkwood's commentary, "Casting Call,"¹ in which he adds his authoritarian voice as an academic ethicist to the chorus of government acolytes now attempting to further limit the civil liberty of physicians.

By way of explanation of the purpose and timing of his editorial, Dr Kirkwood (PhD) tells us that there has been "little evidence of debate about [the subject] in academic and professional journals." Readers should know that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) initiated discussion on this matter through a proposed new policy called "Establishing a Physician-Patient Relationship" a full 6 months ago.² And no less a body than the Ontario Human Rights Commission has already weighed in with its views.³ There is little doubt that, legally, physicians (like all other service providers) are prohibited from discriminating on the grounds listed under the Human Rights Code (including disability). And yet, aside from Ontario Human Rights Commission issues, physicians are still free to enter into contract with anybody, so long as both parties agree. Contrary to Kirkwood's suggestion, much heated debate is currently taking place within the profession in Ontario, and several reports regarding the same have appeared in the *Ontario Medical Review*, *The Medical Post*, and the CPSO's own *Members' Dialogue*.

The issue here is a doctor's right to freely enter into contract with his or her potential, individual patient. And, I suspect, the CPSO will soon tell us what, if any, further infringement to individual liberty it intends to impose upon the profession after its General Council meeting in the fall.