

# Lingualnerve.com

## The Reverse Patch Adams Effect

By Dr Oh Jen Jen, Editorial Board Member

For the uninitiated, Adams is a doctor famous for his “laughter prescriptions”, a treatment routinely dished out to his patients in place of actual medicine, with surprisingly positive results.

The reverse effect, however, occurs when doctors prescribe this therapy to each other, though not necessarily for the purpose of curing actual illnesses. In the medical profession, there is an entity which inflicts physical and emotional chaos that rivals or even surpasses that of any major disease. Its dreaded name? The Proverbial Bad Day.

Welcome to *Lingualnerve.com* – a group medical blog\* that is the first of its kind to feature multiple transcontinental doctor-authors’ writings, comprising commentaries which run the gamut from pensive to hilarious.

Its members hail from the United States, Australia, England and Singapore, each possessing ample blogging experience and respectable credentials both in the medical and writing fields. One is currently completing an MD/PhD programme at the University of Massachusetts, while three others are ER physicians. There is also an internal medicine resident from Washington, and an aspiring surgeon from London. Last but not least, a final-year medical student from Melbourne rounds up the group, which should prove interesting once he graduates and starts his internship!

People tend to picture doctors as serious, humourless creatures, but *Lingualnerve* will prove them wrong. I read each writer’s individual blog regularly, and never fail to feel uplifted, inspired and refreshed every single time. Whether discussing psychiatry, internal medicine, the ER, obstetrics and gynaecology, or paediatrics, they all share a palpable passion for the written word, a keen eye for even the smallest nuances of human behaviour, and most importantly, an ability to see beyond the worst tragedies to find some good within the bad.



Best of all, the power of the Internet has enabled me to converse with them frequently via email and blogging. Suffice to say, their sense of humour is not reserved only for their readers! Each author is jocular even in daily conversations about the most mundane subjects. But of course, this wit blossoms and peaks when work enters the picture. One blog photo depicts the Washington resident posing in a flimsy hospital gown, grinning from ear to ear, while another’s site is titled “Mr Hassle’s Long Underpants”, in tribute to a phrase that embodies the need to recognise and appreciate the lighter side of life instead of allowing our work to smother and consume it.

It is a great privilege for me to be able to participate in this venture, which launches on 1 July 2004. We look forward to charting new territories in the blogging arena, and hope you will join us on this exciting journey. ■

### Note:

\* A “blog” (or weB Log) is a journal that is available on the Internet. It chronicles what a person wants to share with the world on a regular, if not almost daily basis.

[Website: [www.lingualnerve.com](http://www.lingualnerve.com)]



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