ONLY STARZL DARED TO

Pitt Med began showing up at my house when my husband became a med student at the University of Pittsburgh two years ago. I picked it up once out of curiosity and didn't put it down again until I'd read the whole thing from cover to cover. The quality is excellent, and I can't imagine that another medical school in the country has a finer publication. However, this May's "Only Starzl Dared To" has set a new standard. Kudos to Chuck Staresinic for one of the best articles I've ever read about hope and perseverance. I'll be anxiously awaiting the August issue and part two of the article.



Christy Rippel
Pittsburgh

One error marred what was otherwise a terrific article on Thomas Starzl. Not all of the residents and interns in the Department of Medicine signed a resolution "denouncing liver transplantation as unrealistic and potentially unethical." I know this because I did not.

As senior medical resident in the old Presbyterian University Hospital ICU when those first postop liver transplant patients came through the door, I had the privilege of experiencing firsthand Dr. Starzl's intense focus on the welfare of his patients. At the time, I distinctly remember thinking that if every one of my peers could see this doctor's devotion and dedication to his craft, no such petition would have existed.

Richard Hahn (MD '78, Fel '81)
Washington, Pa.

A brief note to express my thanks for your article "Only Starzl Dared To" in the May 2006 issue.

As a liver recipient (July 28, 2002) at Tampa General Hospital, I have much to be thankful for. Now to read about Dr. Thomas Starzl and his history as written by Chuck Staresinic was very informative.

As a member of Florida Governor Jeb Bush's Task Force on organ donation, I am forwarding this material and the Pitt web page highlighting "Transplanting Mozart" to my colleagues for their reading and enjoyment.

I look forward to reading the continuing article in the August issue.

Richard E. Swett
Punta Gorda, Fla.

We gladly receive letters (which we may edit for length, style, and clarity).

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