Clutter: We’ve Got to Face Reality
Dr. Richard T. London

I am interested in your experiences of seeing people demonstrate a compassionate response to seeing seriously mentally ill patients. You must know at this point in your career that this is very unusual. There are little pockets of compassion everywhere and under all circumstances.

The Criminal Minds program is another one where people are trying very hard to reduce the census in prisons, take the mentally ill out, get them appropriately treated, and get them released back into the general population.

I’ve never visited the Toronto Medical School, but it sounds like it’s a good one and there is a good approach taken to dealing with patients who are different.

That’s the most complicated part of the whole stigma issue; the fact that it is an effort to cover over fear and other reactions to people whose functioning is ‘crazy.’

I appreciate your telling me about this, because I am always pleased to learn about positive steps people are taking to reduce the stigma against our patients.

Fighting the stigma against our specialty and our patients is an issue about which we must remain vigilant. I firmly believe that we owe it to ourselves and to our patients.

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