Introduction

The Beatles Were Wrong

In 1970, the Beatles recorded “Let it be” with the following lyrics, written and sung by Paul McCartney.

When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me,
Speaking words of wisdom, “Let it be. Let it be.”
When broken hearted people living in the world agree,
There will be an answer, “Let it be. Let it be.”

This guide for *Leadership in Community Pediatrics*, directed to pediatricians in training and in practice, clearly demonstrates that we find ourselves in times of trouble in the delivery of health care to most children and their families, leaving them, and most of the rest of us, living in the world, broken hearted. The words “Let it be” are not the words of wisdom in this instance nor are they the answer to the trouble and heartbreak we are experiencing.

There is much to learn and much to do to make the world a better place to be, particularly for the underprivileged and the medically underserved among us. We cannot just “Let it be.” So, read on. The “words of wisdom” about and the “answers” to our problems can be found herein.

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