

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Students of Family Medicine

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Welcome to another issue of *Osteopathic Family Physician*.

The past month, I have been honored to be a part of a graduation ceremony for over 150 new Osteopathic physicians. Over 65% were going into Primary care and nearly a quarter of the graduates were going into Family Medicine – I'm hoping a wonderful group of new readers for the OFP! Being around students interested in Osteopathic Family Medicine and working with Family Medicine residents has helped me remain optimistic about the future of Osteopathic Family Medicine and allowed me to meet an incredible cohort of individuals with talents above and beyond taking another test. One of those students of Family Medicine submitted the poem below and I felt it to be appropriate for this journal. In the end, we are all students of Family Medicine – enjoy the learning!



AT THE CROSSROADS OF EMPATHY

I walk into the room,
 "what brings you in?"
 attempting to box
 the pain I see
 in your eyes
 into a 30-minute encounter

and there
 I feel it instantly,
 the heaviness you carry inside
 but where, where do I put it down?

you apologize to me
 for taking up my time,
 for not holding back the tears
 and for a second,
 I realize, how truly
 insignificant
 are my own worries
 and my own fears

as I begin to tell you,
 don't be sorry, this is exactly
 what my time belongs to
 from the moment
 I took an oath to
 help you heal you

you feel ashamed for your pain
 and I feel hypocritical
 telling you not to be ashamed
 when I don't tell
 my own heart
 the same

you finally find the
 words to speak
 you tell me
 you lost your son
 when all your life
 you thought it would be
 the other way around

I tell you death
 doesn't care about age
 and still I can't save you
 from the aching
 from the rage

so all I do is listen

and I listen:
 I place this stethoscope
 on your chest, and I can hear your heart
 pounding, telling me—
*"I just don't know
 where to put it down.
 please tell me,
 where I can put it down"*

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