Il medico di famiglia

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Medical professionalism: a GP’s perspective

Dr Mabel Aghadiuno
“A really good liver”

WHO archives
The transformation is complete. My eyes
Are microscopes and cathode X-ray tubes
In one, so I can see bacteria,
... and even through to bones.
My hands are hypodermic needles, touch
Turned into blood: I need to know your salts
"Technology and Medicine"

...And chemistries, a kind of intimacy
That won't bear pondering...my mouth, for instance,
So small and sharp, a dry computer chip
That never gets to... taste or tell
A brief truth like "You're beautiful," or worse,
"You're crying just like me; you are alive."
General practice: a definition

- the last of the true generalists in medicine
- specialists in one thing: their patients
- Holism: physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual dimensions
A vignette from practice
The “Holistic” consultation

- Consultation Quality Index (CQ1-2)
- Patient enablement,
- Continuity of care
- Consultation length
Self-portrait of Goya with his doctor
Empathy

“...the functions of intellect are insufficient without courage, love, friendship, compassion and empathy”

Dean Koontz

“Communication by empathy is a talent that few possess”

Unknown source
Communication

pauses, gestures and the unspoken...
The art of medicine

- “Most of the science of medicine may be learned in the four years of medical school, but the rest of a physician’s life may still find him deficient in the art”

- “All good physicians are artists.”

Leake C.D. Pratica Medici Moderni, December, 2936, California and Western Medicine, Vol 45, no.6
Limitations of RCP report

- “moral imperative” to address global health issues
- the inconsistencies of medical practice
- ethical issues stemming from sophisticated technology
- Patients’ dissatisfaction of our fragmented rationalist approach
Communication: art within an art

**Doctors don’t know everything really. They understand matter, not spirit. And you and I live in spirit.**

*William Saroyan, Human Comedy*