



The Anatomy of a Patient

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My grandfather passed away the day after Christmas in 2012. He was a brilliant man who practiced medicine for several decades. During that time, he delivered thousands of babies, and even performed the amniocentesis on my mother when I was a fetus. Yet, in his last months, his failing health did not convey this brilliance. Parkinson's disease and other neurological issues prevented my grandfather from speaking quickly or coherently. This was tough to witness, but it taught me an important lesson: there is much more to a patient than just the information contained in his/her

medical file. This concept was the inspiration for my artwork.

For this piece, I drew a portrait of an elderly man, not so different in age and appearance from my own grandfather. On the left, the man's muscles, bones, and anatomical structures are visible with accompanying labels. On the right, the man is seen from an external view with labels describing some of the unseen personal components of his life.

My intentions for this project are to portray the balance that all physicians must find between

understanding a patient's medical story, as well as understanding his/her personal story. Neither is complete without the other, and it is the physician's duty to explore both facets to build relationships with patients and find the best way to treat them. I hope that in my

future practice, I will effectively build these relationships by not only administering effective medical care but also by taking the time to learn about patients' lives, personalities, and values.

Original artwork inspired by "Study of an Older Man" by John Norman Stewart, 2010 and "Musculature of the face with the orbit of the eye" by Nicolas Henri Jacob, 1831.