



## Broken

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**T**here are several elements symbolized in the mosaic that represent a doctor–patient relationship. This work strives to piece together, and serve as a reminder of, the elements that make for a successful and impactful relationship.

**Multiple pieces of tile:** The pieces of tile in the mosaic are used to depict the compilation of various elements that contribute to the personhood of both the patient and their doctor. Both are made up of a variety of different cultural, experiential, familial and personal elements. These elements, though similar at first glance, are highly unique, and they directly influence how patients perceive their diseases and how doctors recognize the illnesses.

**Brokenness:** The ‘brokenness’ in the medium is used to illustrate how both the doctor and the patient are ‘broken’ people. The brokenness of the tile is also a representation of the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine (CHM) virtue of humility, as doctors appreciate the limitations of their own mental, social and physical abilities. It also provides a beautiful picture of how medical students are broken down and

reassembled in the process of medical education, demonstrating the transition from a functional individual element of society, represented by the tile and media choice, to an integrated part of a grand picture of humanistic medicine, represented by the mosaic.

**Power and position:** The picture of the patient portrayed as a young child depicts the element of mercy in the doctor–patient relationship as an embodiment of the CHM virtue to meet the needs of the patient regardless of the perceived position of power that the doctor may hold. The doctor is also on the same eye level as the patient, being actively engaged and closing the power divide. The choice of a child, who fills one of the most vulnerable positions of society, to depict the patient portrays how many patients may feel when bringing his or her health concerns before a doctor. The doctor in this picture assumes the responsibility to oversee the care of this patient, to serve as an advocate for the patient’s rights and to echo and amplify the voice of their patient.

**Medical imagery:** The choice of a stethoscope as the tool for diagnosis and the image of a small-sized heart

in the ear of the doctor depicts the importance of the doctor 'listening' to not only what is present in the patient physically but also hearing what is going on emotionally, with the heart as a picture of the soul – the biopsychosocial framework – of the patient.

**Heart symbolism:** The heart in this piece also symbolizes love and compassion that must be present in a

doctor–patient relationship. The heart in the ear of the doctor also embodies the patient-centered approach to first listen to the patients and then encourage them to voice their concerns. The size of the heart in the child relative to the size of the heart in the doctor depicts how the patient may perceive his or her disease differently from that of the physician.