

Talent in Medicine

The medical profession is not different from other workforce sharing with them all common interests, hobbies and talents. The majority of these activities are unrelated to medicine. Many are musicians, performers, artists, writers, critics, astronomers, photographers, etc., not to mention their excellence in the world of sports. On the other hand, there are also instances when the practice of these activities takes the form of applied interpretation of what they know in human pathobiology and the concerned function. Thus, some may be historians of clinical practice, clinical pharmacologists of locally used herbs, or clinical therapists of locally practiced folk medicine.

This section of the Bahrain Medical Bulletin will be devoted to “Talents in the Medical Profession” to show and exchange with others common interests and applied experience. Contributors are therefore welcomed to submit their presentation. This issue contains two poems titled “**Can’t Feel My Pain? Please Listen to Me Doctor!**” and “**Till Death Do Us Apart!**”.

The Chief Editor

Can’t Feel My Pain? Please Listen to Me Doctor!

“Poor listeners”, yes physicians are poor listeners,
People with chronic pain see physicians as poor listeners.*
The Institute of Medicine committee on pain has so found,
This ‘sadly’ they felt and reported is the reality on ground.**

Most physicians have poor education and training in pain management,
A quarter of primary care physicians ‘feel unprepared’ in its management!*
In their regular clinics physicians are busy with so many sundry complaints,
In their ignorance of pain management, they ignore patient’s pleas on pain.

Physicians’ unscientific knowledge and attitudes towards pain relief-
Are the major impediments to patient’s relief and worsen his grief!
They have fear of giving stronger medicine for patient’s chronic pain,
Their fear of causing addiction is irrelevant in relief of cancer pain.

Why pain relief should be limited to only pain specialists?
When pain is so common, shouldn’t it be known well by generalists?
Why pain education is not included in medical curricula?
Why patients have to suffer for our lop-sided curricula?

A patient comes to a doctor for his symptom relief,
If a physician can't do that it damages patient's faith and belief.
No use of any good intentions if a doctor is not well trained;
Pain relief is basic medicine in which all of us should be trained.

How can the doctor educate the patient about his pain?
He himself is so uneducated about the cause and relief of pain.
The Institute of Medicine has offered sixteen recommendations,**
They include students' and clinicians' prompt pain care education.

*Pizzo PA, Clark NM. Alleviating Suffering 101—Pain Relief. *New England Journal of Medicine*. Perspective. 2012, Jan 19; 366, No.3, 197-99.

**Institute of Medicine, *Relieving pain in America: a blueprint for transforming prevention, care, education, and research*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2011.

Till Death Do Us Apart!

Fifty eight point eight million die every year on planet earth*,
The World Health Organization** testifies the grim dance of death.
Death appears to be inevitable and compulsory in the life of man,
I had almost forgotten it; come to think of it, O man! O man!

Why doesn't it seem near? Why doesn't it feel real? That is a wonder,
Why are we oblivious of it? So impervious to the idea of it; it's a wonder.
I feel as if I am here forever; I hope by a flick of chance I may see of it never,
I love it how it is; I wish I could be the one who stayed here forever, forever.

The scenery is great, the weather is lovely; I love the mountains and the valleys,
The buildings and the mansions are grand; there are joyous crowds in the alleys.
Come home and the wife is loyal, kids are obedient and caring, the dog is loving;
Everything is in plenty, who would like to leave this world, O my! It is bewitching!

God is great; bank balance is full, business is flourishing; there are friends galore,
People love me, they call me great; heavens are kind, I am successful to the core.
The thought of leaving this never comes to me; such talk or even thought is a bore,
I never can think all this may one day end; mine, I feel is an ongoing chore.

I don't believe them when looking at my grey hair they call me old,
I know I'm young; I'm young at heart; they who think they are old are old.
I'm stuck; I'm stuck; I'm firmly stuck to this world with a heart of gold,
Its attraction has entered my heart and soul; I'm you know not yet too old.
Well, well, well; the WHO statistics are too sharp, biting and disheartening,
It seems I'll have to think of the unthinkable; howsoever bore and frightening.
I can either dumbly wait for my turn and grow dull, duller and depressed;
Or be prepared to go and yet live each day in thankfulness and feel blessed.

*Anthony S Fauci, David M Moreans. The Perpetual Challenge of Infectious Diseases; New England Journal of Medicine: 2012, Feb2; 366, 454-61

** World health statistics 2011. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2011.

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