The Distinguished Doctor: Lines to His Image

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"IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE,
DO MORE AND BECOME MORE,
YOU ARE A LEADER"

John Quincy Adam (1767-1848) – the sixth President of the United States of America

ABSTRACT: It takes many years to become recognized as a distinguished physician. During the long maturing period a large collection of innate and acquired qualities are being conglomerated to assemble a unique personality. Herein we study the appropriate characteristics that a respected clinician should always cherish.
A doctor's great personality develops over a long period of time in his professional life. During this period, the appropriate elements will be integrated into the characteristics of his innate and acquired personality. Then, it will pass the crucible of his soul and turn his image into a "conglomerate" of character lines whose sole purpose is to take care of the physical and mental health of his patient. He would do so with a lot of compassion, professional listening, and a relationship of solidarity with his patient condition. A bit of humor will always be an upgrading spice.

If we observe the doctor's oath on Prof. L. Halperin (1) we will find the phrase "you shall seek to fathom the soul of the sick, to restore their spirits with perspicacity and love of man." and in another paragraph, "Do not hasten to bring forth judgment and weigh your advice on a wise balance, tried in the crucible of wisdom forged by experience ". herein, we would discover important components of the doctor's qualities – the making of a decision about treating a patient that includes listening to the advice of experienced colleagues, weighing the calculated risk and finding the appropriate solution for each case. We find a great value in making such a decision in a clear mind and paying homage to the advice of a colleague. "In respect of him you will also be respected."

The great doctor is one who never has been guilty of the sin of arrogance and vanity while maintains humility, modesty, and a developed interpersonal communication ability. the winning combination of human-enthusiasm traits, the desire to benefit the other, acquired scientific curiosity, professionalism, imagination, and creativity combined with education and guidance qualities, (Picture no. 1) all together at the right dose will bring the great doctor into the world.
He would be the responsible adult and a striking example to emulate among his students. His commander's spirit will be integrating with leadership charisma and exemplary. He would have the ability to influence at the local, national, and even universal level in his field while presenting his scientific experience in writing and publishing.

The great doctor has a visionary personality, he who "looks at the egg and draws a fowl,". He reports truthfully, admits his mistake, and even gives a detailed explanation of it to the patient and his family. The great doctor uses his mind and heart to examine every situation, he is not solely interested in his path, but seeks the chosen path for the benefit of the patient. He verifies that his partners are working with him and not for him. This attitude raises the team spirit and exhausts their optimal competence.

The great doctor instructs to maintain the rights of privacy of all his patients, accompanied with faithfulness and confidence, and most important to treat people the way he wants to be treated.

I found that The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) (2) has identified six essential competencies that may lead to a successful completion of the specialization and a maturity that is a milestone in the path of the formation of a great doctor: 1) Basic Knowledge 2) Clinical competence 3) Interpersonal skills 4) Professionalism 5) Patient-based learning 6) Systems-based learning.

To achieve a reputation in the medical profession, more ingredients should be added to the "dish" to improve its "flavor". This includes teamwork while providing a personal example, dedication to his role, intuition, and gut feeling, maintaining eye contact and a smile with the patient, positive and wrapping body language, giving away a large amount of empathy, sympathetic attitude, and taking the burden of responsibility (3). There are elements that will never enter the "stew" - smugness, arrogance, greed, and emotional incapacity (4).

The explanation for signing informed consent for the action that should be taken to the patient is an art that develops over the years in the great doctor. What to tell, how much to explain about the necessity of care, and to whom the family entrusts the fate of their beloved one. The family should understand that things were carefully considered before the team decision to save their beloved one, had been taken.

A great doctor always listens to the patient and his family and respect their opinion. A doctor who gives up on such a source of knowledge loses a very important tool in medical care. A great doctor gives up on his professional pride, and places trust and confidence in his patients.
Summary: A doctor becomes special and great with a rich reputation after many years of high ethic work and preoccupation on the art of medicine in all its layers. This include teamworking, integrity, education, leadership, and research. Combined with good, calm, and consistent behavior both in conversation and body language, without demeaning his patients.

most importantly is the training of the future generations to have the patient and his family at the forefront of their mind.

References

4) Rosenow III EC, "the challenge of becoming a distinguished clinician". Mayo Clinic Proc. 1999; 74;635-637