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## Expression of Clinical Experience

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EXPRESSION OF CLINICAL  
EXPERIENCE  
BRITTANY DERYNDA

The slide features a background with a vertical gradient from light yellow at the top to orange at the bottom. On the right side, there are several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the top right towards the bottom left.

A knock, a firm hand placed on the shoulder, I said; “How are you feeling today? I am sorry that I kept you waiting so long” although, it had only been minutes since the pair were placed in the room.

An older man, 85 years or so, sits with his face entangled in tubing, breathing with the help of his oxygen tank, *Click, Whoosh. Click, Whoosh. Click, Whoosh.* His wife’s wrinkled fingers interlaced within his.

“I am doing great! I walked up a whole flight of stairs yesterday without stopping. You see these here?” as he pointed to a picture of his grandchildren in his wallet, “I chased them around all night on New Year’s with this oxygen tank!”

“I love to hear that Mr. Smith, that’s really great! Only 5 treatments left. You are doing great. Any heart burn or nausea recently?”

“Oh, none of that”

“Jon tell him the truth.” Mr. Smith’s wife studied him as took a deep breath. *Click, Whoosh. Click, Whoosh. Click, Whoosh.*

“Well, nausea the past week but only in the mornings. And well the heartburn has gotten pretty bad doc.”

“I can give you something for those both, I’ll send some Omeprazole and Zofran to your pharmacy right away. Anything else I can do for you today Mr. Smith?”

“Nope I’m all good, come on Nancy, we have to get to your hair appointment on time. Oh, and one thing for you, newbie,” turning to face me, the fly on the wall, watching, examining, staying very still. “Take the time to greet your patients, apologize for being late, and remember; it could always be worse. I’m going to beat this cancer; you wait and see” *Click, whoosh. Click, Whoosh. Click, Whoosh.*

And with that, the patient with stage 4 prostate cancer walked out of the clinic, wife in hand and a smile from ear to ear, despite the cancer that had metastasized to his lungs and bones. He was grateful to be alive.

▶ **About the artist:** Brittany Berynda

**BRITTANY DERYNDA** IS A FIRST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT.

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, set against the orange gradient background.