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Expression of Clinical Experience

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When I walked into my first dermatology rotation, the world felt like a new and scary place. The first few weeks I was rushed through seeing an enormous amount of patients daily but was not being able to examine or ask questions myself. Because I am an intrinsically-motivated person, and in the field of medicine, not being able to interact with patients made me feel worthless.

It is saddening to realize some physicians are motivated extrinsically, by financial means and nothing else, and get lost in the routine. One day during my rotation, when I was shadowing the second physician, he allowed me to talk and examine patients. He laughed. He smiled. He cared. I watched him sit down next to his patient to explain the surgery process to them in-depth.

I saw a light in his eyes that reminded me why I decided to pursue medicine. That feels like a win to me. In the end, I believe that good health is a thing to *be celebrated...* and so are the physicians that continue to invest in their patients honoring the true service of medicine.

I am impressed by physicians who continue to devote themselves to really caring for people –even after 20 years of working. Surgery is one of the scariest things that patients can experience and feeling safe and understood by your doctor is the least you could ask for.

This physician renewed my hope in why we go through so much as medical students – to care for and understand your patients as people and not just a process. Let's continue to celebrate those that invest their time into the true service of medicine.

Mara Seat is a first year medical student who is goal-driven and interested in practicing in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She believes the field of medicine is deeply rooted in humanities, and that each time you're with a patient is a chance to connect and understand people better. She is from Sarasota, Florida and is looking forward to one day working in the state of Florida

ABOUT THE ARTIST: MARA SEAT