

Why Heal?

With the advent of increasingly more complex technologies and procedures, the pressure to specialize both in medicine and in other professions has forced us to narrow our fields of interests. We have moved from the age of the Renaissance Man to the age of the Expert. While this trend towards specialization has allowed for incredible advancements, it threatens to alienate us from each other by ever so insidiously washing out the little details and colorful quirks that make us real to one another.

Knowing every factoid and pharmaceutical tidbit in the universe will not make us better doctors. What separates us from the medical apps on our PDA's is not our superior capacity for memorizing diagnostic criteria and risk percentages. Rather, it is our ability to relate to each other on a uniquely human level that allows us to bring our patients back to a place of health and wholeness, and we do this best not as Doctor and Patient, but as Painter and Potter, Runner and Swimmer, Writer and Actor. This is why it is so important to make time for seemingly frivolous passions and pastimes, even in the face of incredible pressure to pursue perfection in one arena while letting all else fall by the wayside. This is why publications like *HEAL* are such an important outlet for members of a community; *HEAL* allows us to reach out to each other and catch a glimpse of the naked human behind the constructs of social and professional boundaries.

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