

Alberta Doctors' Digest

Alberta Doctor shares what's on her mind through poetry

Not billable

Shop talk done

smooth back the hospital sheet

add a warm blanket

tuck your feet in

add another

gather water

no ice

for the side table

we amble through the photos

on your phone

lambing season

at the family farm

your great-granddaughter

beaming

in her red rubber boots

fifteen minutes overtime

and yet

the highlight
of my day

The following poem, *Oath*, is of the genre “found poems”.

Found poems take existing texts and refashion them, reorder them, and present them as poems. The literary equivalent of a collage, found poetry is often made from newspaper articles, street signs, graffiti, speeches, letters, or even [other poems](#).

The poem *Oath* is Dr. Roth’s original writing using the Hippocratic Oath.

Oath

I hold an oath
swear to impart
carry out
my art
and livelihood

I need
and want

to do no harm

injustice is
poison

will my ability
to
administer judgement
benefit patients

or fee regimens?

I will not harm

we break bodies

what should

be holy

witnesses to

keep

pure

I enter

indenture

outside what

my family

will ever

hear published

I hold

the knife

and stone

teach my art

abstain

not abusing

what should not be

my life

my art

opposite men

The Physician and Family Support Program (PFSP) invites original physician poetry submissions

PFSP recognizes the importance of the emotional and social aspects of physicians' lives in their overall wellness. We invite Alberta physicians in any career stage to send in their original poems/prose to be considered for publication in the PFSP Perspectives column in future issues of *Alberta Doctors' Digest*.

- Submissions (under 500 words please) can be emailed to pfsp@albertadoctors.org. Please put the phrase "poetry submission" in the subject field of the email.
- We will acknowledge receipt of your submission. If it is selected for publication, we will work with the *ADD* editor to determine when it can be published.
- For further information or questions, please email pfsp@albertadoctors.org, and one of our team will get back to you.

A promotional graphic for the Physician and Family Support Program (PFSP). The background is dark blue with a yellow wavy bottom edge. On the left, a large, light blue stylized figure of a person is shown in a supportive, open-armed pose. The text "We are here with you and for you." is written in white and yellow. On the right, the text "Call AMA's Physician and Family Support Program" is in white, followed by the phone number "1.877.767.4637" in yellow and "24 hours a day" in white. At the bottom right, there is a white logo of a stylized tree with three human figures and the letters "pfsp" in blue.

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