Foundations of Medicine

The Essence of Being a Physician

د. أحمد تركي هاني
طبيب دكتوراه علم الأمراض
MBChB. MSc. PhD. Pathology

The Doctor-Patient Relationship

Core Elements in Doctor/Patient relationship:

• **Trust**: Patients rely on physicians to act in their best interest.

• **Communication**: Clear, honest, and compassionate dialogue is vital.

• **Mutual Respect**: Recognizing the dignity of both patient and physician.

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Core Values Defining Physician's Work

- **Compassion**: Understanding and addressing patient suffering.
- **Altruism**: Prioritizing patient needs above personal gain.
- **Integrity**: Adhering to ethical principles in all actions.

Core Values Defining Physician's Work

- **Duty**: Commitment to providing care, even in challenging circumstances.
- **Responsibility**: Being accountable for patient outcomes.
- **Trust**: The foundation of the physician-patient relationship.

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The Role of Physicians in Patient Care

- **Primary Responsibilities**:
-Diagnosing and treating illness.
-Promoting health and preventing disease.
-Educating and empowering patients.

The Role of Physicians in Patient Care

- **Advocacy**: Acting in the patient's best interest within the healthcare system.
- **Holistic Care**: Addressing physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs.

Practical Demonstrations of Empathy

Scenario 1: Responding to Bad News

Approach: Sit at eye level, use calm tones, allow silence for processing.

Scenario 2: Dealing with a Frustrated Patient
Approach: Validate feelings, avoid defensiveness, work collaboratively on solutions.

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Scenario 3: Supporting Chronic Illness Patients

Approach: Show commitment to long-term care, celebrate small victories, and provide emotional support.