**The Value of Medicine**  
*By Guimy Alexis*

What is the value of a physician? Or more importantly, how can their value be measured? Why does society see these individuals as essential, their purpose as altruistic?

Is it because of their intelligence? No. Albeit, in order to become a physician, one must be exceptional, this quality alone is insufficient to justify their value.

Is it due to performance? Potential is useless without results, right? No. What about the caliber of their education? It must be due to their class rank, specialty, prestige in the medical community, new medical innovations? No. No. And, no.

Their value is rooted in their relentless attempts to preserve life. Society recognizes the value of life, because all life is valuable.

A physician’s worth is ingrained in this unyielding pursuit to treat, if not cure, disease that will ultimately end the lives of their patients. Irrespective of whom that individual is, his or her life is worth saving. Life is valuable and so are those who devote their lives to its preservation.

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**Glorified Pill Pusher**  
*By Anonymous*

An apple a day keeps the doctor away,  
Or is it an ACE-I and a statin that keep the doctor at bay?

Each day we work to preserve the health of others,  
But I wonder why each doesn’t help himself?

We take on the responsibility that others do not.  
We have the easy answers that so many have sought.

The frustration mounts as they ask for yet another med,  
The alternative of which will leave them dead.

Is this really why I went to school for so many years?  
To watch people disrespect their health with so little fears?

Though its frustrating, I won’t give up. I’ll see it through.  
Otherwise, who would be around to tell them what’s best to do?

And so each day we continue to push a pill  
While practicing compassion as a cure for lack of motivation and will.

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Jill Grayson  

Luis Bolaños