

EDITORIAL

## About clinical medicine: Is there still such a thing?

Dan Mischianu

The other day, a distinguished and well known specialist radiologist from Bucharest shared with me two absolutely surprising things.

First: not long ago, an experienced internal medicine physician addressed expressly with the request to radiologically examines a patient with, in his opinion "acute pulmonary edema"! The radiologist told me that the "acute pulmonary edema" was actually a "spontaneous pneumothorax" probably due to rupture of emphysematous bubbles. The thoracic surgeon solved the so-called "acute pulmonary edema" actually "spontaneous pneumothorax" by specific means...

The second issue told by the radiologist: I can sit at home in front of my laptop and receive scanned images of patients from different locations (clinics, private hospitals) in the country (Bacau, Constanta, Baia Mare and so on), then I say my opinion and the fee is in my account!

I asked him slightly amazed: Yeah, well, but do you not feel the need to learn more about that patient? Did you forget what we learned in medical and surgical semiology that 80% of the diagnosis belongs to anamnesis? Do you not need to palpate, to auscultate or to listen to what the patient tells you...? Have you not learned anything from the mistake of the internist who "din not use a stethoscope" to find, in fact, that he had no vesicular murmur? My friend did not answer...

In fact what do I want to say in this editorial?

First I want to say that our guild lives in a perfect confusion: notions or concepts of "evidence-based medicine (EBM)", "alternative medicine", "noninvasive" medicine, "medicine x, y, z" and many others can only leave room for speculation. Medicine, as illustrated, has always been great at removing great speculations because of phantasmagoric individuals like Paracelsus or Mesmer...

Secondly, in Adevarul newspaper from 02/19/2016, Theodora Șopaltă, a journalist, was writing sententiously: "There are five types of doctors. Which one do you prefer?" The first type, in the opinion of the author is "The clever" (30% of respondents voted for him), then comes "The Digital doctor" (which probably specify diagnosis texting his phone! preferred by 8% of respondents), then comes "The Wise man" who do not talk to patients about their illness but gives them an accurate diagnosis. Go figure it! In fourth position lies "The Idealist", preferred by 24% of patients, said to be a younger version of "intelligence" and the ending is marked by "Only You", a "pragmatic option of alternative medicine."

Thirdly, I say that doctors may be labeled as "made



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and born" to practice this noble profession, for which are made after the Hippocratic precepts and not by strange and awkward ideas, good and honest doctors with knowledge of human nature, easily grasping which in this profession gives you a disadvantage and "good for nothing doctors" who easily realize that there is no place for them amongst us and change their job to managers, adventurers, free – thinkers and so on.

To end this Editorial I conclude by saying that a good and honest clinician is the one that accepts and

applies the perennial teachings of Hippocrates of Cos and takes into account the lessons of the Great surgeon and Great clinician, Professor Dr. Ion Juvara:

"Whatever novelty and complexity of laboratory methods of investigation, clinical retains its entire value, observation of man by man offering truths that never grow old"

I believe and hope that there still is the so-called "Clinical medicine"!