

During most of my life, I had thought that being a physician was the utmost, and maybe the only, quality way of being a doctor. The title, per se, was symbolic of power, influence, and intent. This thinking informed my decisions regarding my studies up to the time of my admission to clinical practice and witnessed an alternative reality in action. Being a physiotherapist in collaboration with a Physician Assistant is the area that brought my assumptions into a new sphere that I was not used to. I noticed how patients did not necessarily want to see this provider due to his expertise, but because he was available, continued to be, and they trusted him. The PA was part of the community (homestead), whereas the physicians rotated and continued the dialogue, followed up, and anchored the care provided to the community. My perception of impact was changed by the level of relationships I observed between my patients and me. Humility was needed in this awareness. To drop a belief, one had always had was not disobeying, but just thinking. I also learnt that healing is not hierarchical, but present. Titles are not the defining power, and there is engagement. The PA occupation fits my desired vision of practicing medicine, which is collaboratively, attentively, and sustainably. The interprofessional education of the University of Iowa represents the admiration I have for all professional positions in healthcare. My choice to study PA training does not imply any compromise, but a better explanation of my desire to provide meaningful patient-centered care.

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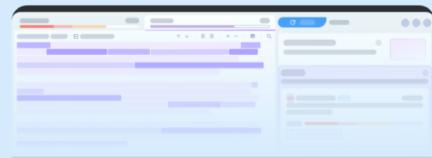
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