

1-3-2024

Group Reflection: White Coat as a Symbol of Healing

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Recommended Citation

Cleveland, Constance; Raghavan, Deepa; Debnath, Dipra; Maixner, Jay; Krayem, Ranya; Mehan, Vikash; Mustafa, Zane; and Salem, Ayman, "Group Reflection: White Coat as a Symbol of Healing" (2024). *Patient Education Projects*. 899.

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Learning Community Group: Orange 29



Reflections on Articles

Over the course of the 2nd year of medical school, our professional identities will grow into new stages that allow us to make sense of its unique challenges. As we are introduced to the new environments that our education presents us with—such as meetings with administrators, increasing complexity of schoolwork, and renewed engagement with our peers—our medical professional identities will evolve to contain the tools needed to adapt to these conflicts. As we reflect on this year in the future, we will be able to evaluate how our medical professionalism and moral conduct abilities have grown.

The white coat remains a symbol of professionalism and healing to doctors and patients alike. Our white coats can provide us a sense of authority, while also protecting intersectional groups from having to address misidentification that still occurs in medicine. Additionally, the white coat guides our patients in that the understanding of who their doctor is. However, the idea of “professionalism” when it comes to clothing in medicine is one that is rapidly evolving. As the article states, there is no one solution to professionalism or misidentification in medicine.

