

# Memo

To: Fellow Medical Staff at Salem Health  
From: Marc Sunday, Medical Staff President  
Date: March 27  
Re: Doctors Day 2022

Message:

As we reflect on the past year, it would be easy to focus on the negatives. After all, this has been another year of COVID dominating our work and home lives, of adjusting to new paradigms of working in a time when patients, families and we, as physicians, have very little bandwidth to give to others outside of our small circle of self, family and friends.

Much has been made about “The Great Resignation” and the swell of job transience, of people desperately seeking a change in occupation to pry themselves out of the burnout COVID either accelerated or created. But we, as physicians, have the privilege of a calling much more nuanced and permanent than this. We did not enter this profession out of burnout or boredom or restlessness. We became physicians purposefully. Thoughtfully. With the knowledge that what lay in front of us was a ultra-marathon very few can undertake successfully. We wanted to stand at the intersection of Science and Humanity, sit with patients in their time of need and ask them “Where does it hurt?”

As our profession has evolved in the modern era, it has been faced with monumental challenges, especially as technology has burgeoned at a frantic pace and we as a profession attempt to figure out how to best integrate a digital society with what will *always* be a very analog interaction, as we still need to sit with the patient in their time of need and reflect back to them a human touch, a human concern and a human comfort. And it is this interaction at the bedside that will always matter most to our patients. It mattered most to them before this pandemic and it will continue to matter long after the next pandemic. And the next.

And that is why we as physicians are celebrated during Doctor’s Day, ever since the first Doctor’s Day on March 30, 1933 when Eudora Brown Almond, wife of Dr. Charles Almond, set flowers on the graves of deceased physicians to honor them on the anniversary of the first administration of Ether for anesthesia in Mrs. Brown’s home state of Georgia in 1842 by Dr. Crawford Long.

So on this Doctor’s Day, nearly 100 years later, we celebrate *YOU*, our physicians. Thank you for continuing to carry on in this profession standing at the intersection of Science and Humanity, unwavering at its challenges as you step to the bedside and ask your patient to tell you where it hurts. Thank you.