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**The relationship among doctors and their medical staff and their own patients:
a classroom discussion.**

Nowadays research money is spent in different and very important branches of medicine. The research results are certainly very useful to a great number of suffering people, who hope to be better as soon as possible and to spare themselves from a serious illness. In my opinion, as a common citizen, not too much has been done in order to make the relationship between doctors and their patients better. Every year only a small budget is spent on speaking about this topic, but all efforts made haven't led to successful results yet.

Recently reading some national magazines and newspapers and watching TV news was able to notice that more and more fatal doctors errors are occurring. At the end of last summer, 2007, on 27th September to be exact, at Sant'Orsola Hospital, in Bologna, a woman had a kidney operation by a doctor who unfortunately made a tragic error. As a matter of fact he removed the woman's good kidney and not the bad-one. That was due to an a problem of name-confusing : the woman's CAT had been – exchanged with another one. Unfortunately after the operation the woman died because of serious complications. I often wonder whether the doctors and their own staff usually take care of their patients seriously enough and whether, when they are looking after their patients, they really think how best to help a man or a woman who is in trouble.

In order to give some reasonable answers to my questions I have decided to ask these questions to my students in a lesson of English for medicine at University. Some of the students already work at local hospitals and at private surgeries. Besides the questions above, I have asked the following questions, too.

1. Do all patients always take into account the doctor's orders?
2. Is it always the whole doctors responsibility when a serious accident occurs to their own patients?
3. Have doctors and medical staff got patience, humility and empathy with their patients?

All the students found the topic very interesting and authentic. Nearly all of them, including myself, agreed that the relationship between doctors, their medical staff and their own patients has become a serious problem to solve as soon as possible. We all considered the fact the doctors and medical staff are human beings too and we must take into account that human error often could occur, nevertheless , the great number of complaints from common citizens against them shows us that doctors' errors are more than frequent. It could be considered as a tragic consequence of a terrible habit which day by day people don't notice anymore. Some students spoke about the doctors' incapacity to understand their patients and when the worst comes to the worst some doctors are not able to communicate to them with any confidence and safety.

The discussion went on to talk about two eminent historical Italian men who signed a very important event in the field of medicine. They are St. Francesco from Assisi (Umbria) who lived in the XIII century and St. Giuseppe Moscati, a famous doctor from Naples (Campania) who lived in the XX century. Both of them in looking after all poor people who asked them for help, they first talked directly to their hearts, hearing their troubles and burdens and giving them strength, confidence and, in a word, love. We also talked about many other famous doctors who nowadays operate in silence and have got tolerance, humility, understanding and love with all ill people.

As a conclusion I can say it is necessary that a part of research money must be definitely spent on offering all people who work for and with suffering people numerous opportunities to be up to date. In my opinion , the most important thing is to give them a lot of opportunities to reflect about their own jobs, about the value of suffering and about how to improve the ability to communicate with and to listen to people in troubles. For example it should be possible to give those workers the opportunity to attend courses , official meetings and ,more than other ones, offer them an occasion to travel to those places where it is possible to see the cruel suffering, such as Africa, India, Asia and all over the world where people are in danger. I think only to have an experience of suffering and to learn how to communicate with others , together with a reflection of our own choice of life, enriches us and make us confident and serene in our jobs.