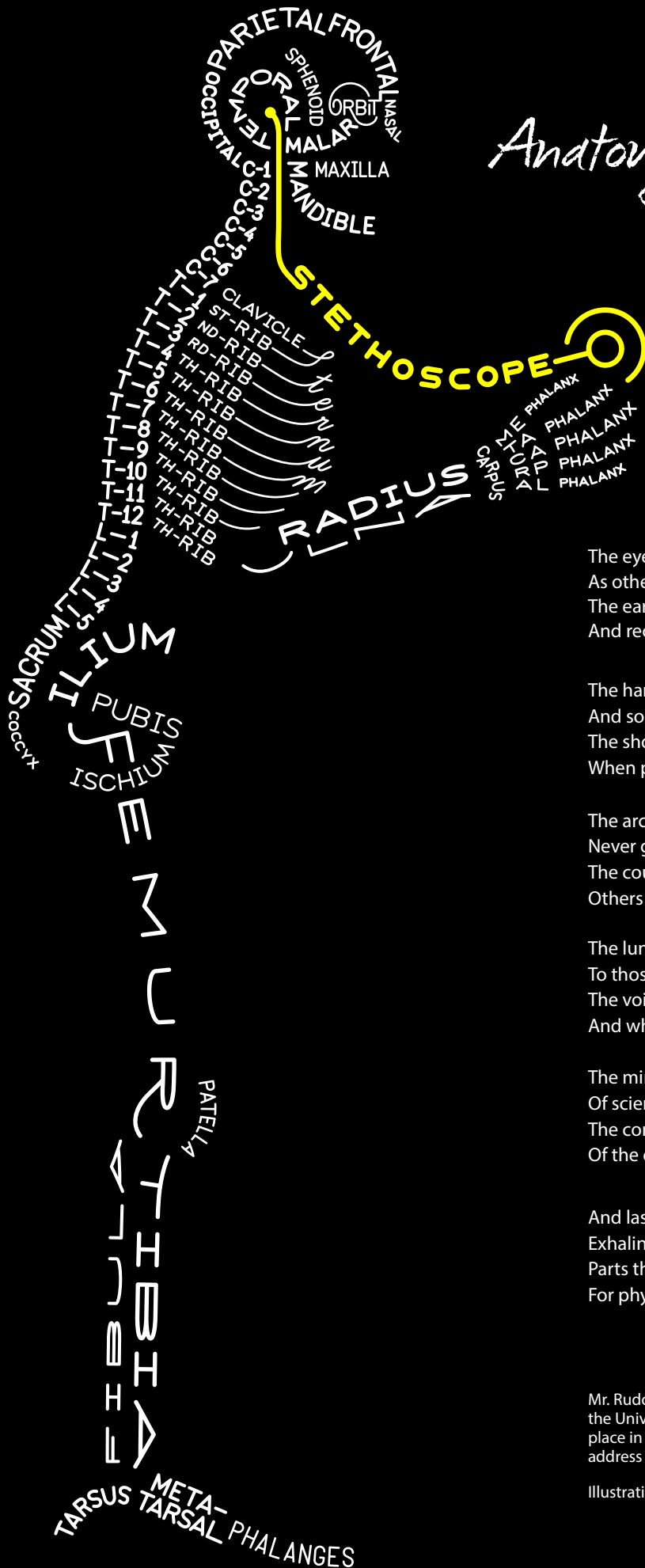


Anatomy of the physician



The eyes that seek to see the sick
As others look askance,
The ears that hear a lub dub drum
And recognize the dance,

The hands that feel a fragile pulse
And soothe with warming touch,
The shoulder, broad to lean upon
When patients lack a crutch,

The arcing back that bears their burdens
Never giving out,
The countenance that comforts
Others overwhelmed with doubt,

The lungs that gust the breath of life
To those who gasp for air,
The voice that advocates aloud
And whispers quiet prayers,

The mind that siphons equal shares
Of science and of art,
The compassion amaranthine
Of the ever-pumping heart,

And last, the inmost wish to heal
Exhaling from the soul—
Parts that come together
For physicians to be whole.

Mark Rudolf

Mr. Rudolf (AQA, University of Virginia, 2016) is an MD/PhD student at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. His poem received second place in *The Pharos* Poetry Award competition 2018. Mr. Rudolf's e-mail address is mar4as@virginia.edu.

Illustration by Aaron Kuehn