

A Reminder

An intellectual is someone whose mind watches itself.
I entered into this profession, this art—
It is easy to slip into a selfish thirst to prove myself,
Amidst all the memorization of complex body parts.

I entered into this profession, this art.
But I sometimes forget the patients whom I am working for,
amidst all the memorization of complex body parts.
(Biochemical pathways, reactions, and science galore.)

I sometimes forget the patients whom I am working for,
We were all so idealistic—bright-eyed and bushy-tailed at the inception.
In spite of biochemical pathways, reactions, and science galore,
It is crucial to keep clear and undimmed our perception.

We were all so idealistic—bright-eyed and bushy-tailed at the inception;
More difficult is now to stay the course and remain consistent.
It is crucial to keep clear and undimmed our perception:
Integrity, honesty, communication—to these we must be persistent.

More difficult is now to stay the course and remaining consistent—
It is easy to slip into a selfish thirst to prove myself.
Integrity, honesty, communication—to these we must be persistent.
Recall—an intellectual is someone whose mind watches itself.

Angela Jiang



Ms. Jiang is a member of the Class of 2014 at the Ohio State University College of Medicine. This poem won third prize in the 2011 *Pharos* Poetry Competition. Ms. Jiang's address is: 1062 Pennsylvania Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201. E-mail: angela.jiang@osumc.edu.

Illustration by Erica Aitken