SUMMARY OF HEALING PRACTICES EXERCISES ART OF DOCTORING THIRD YEAR ELECTIVE

- 1) Monitor your patient/educational interactions for a week and notice 1-2 situations in which you behaved consistent with your values and your sense of professionalism as well as 1-2 situations in which you felt you could have done a better job. Describe each.
- 2) On a 1-7 continuum from emotional detachment to emotional overinvolvement, record for each patient encounter which number best describes you, and how you felt about your level of emotional connection with that particular patient.
- 3) Write a skit demonstrating a problematic encounter with an attending, resident, or patient; and generate alternative ways of acting in the same situation.
- 4) We've also had an in-class assignment to generate ways of working with the frustration and powerless that can arise when students encounter a difficult attending, resident or patient. The students' list included:
 - a. Understanding the other person's point of view
 - b. Shifting one's own perspective. This might include reframing the situation or putting it in a larger context.
 - c. Prayer
 - d. Journalling
 - e. Yoga, meditation
 - f. Talking, sharing with a friend
 - g. Using humor
 - h. Surrounding oneself with nonjudgmental people
 - i. Receive validation and affirmation from patients

Their assignment was to choose one of these strategies and practice it for a week.

- 5) Collect wise/spiritual sayings and write a paragraph about each, noting how it helps you get through the day and helps you in dealing with problematic patient or educational situations.
- 6) Describe a positive physician role-model and note carefully what attributes and communication/interactional skills are responsible for this physician's successful relationships with patients.
- 7) Apply the "Challenging Situations" algorithm to a clinical encounter and determine which aspects are helpful, and which are not.