

Peer Review

# Review of: "Humanity in a World Without Empathy: Medical Professionals and a Holistic View of the Human Being"

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Very nice work and interesting read. Thank you for the opportunity to review this.

A few suggestions – can take it or leave it

1. Define empathy – originated from the German term Einfühlung which means to feel-into, or put oneself in the shoes of the other – see The Origin of Empathy – Yale University Press.
2. Can reference a time of societal/political polarisation in many societies – have and have nots, discrimination of minorities, extremist viewpoints/beliefs;
3. Yet suffering from illness, and death/dying is a common denominator for all – no matter rich or poor, wise or unwise, etc... it is the great leveler. Therefore, healthcare professionals have the opportunity to meet people where they are, treat their conditions equally and to the best of their abilities, listen to their viewpoints (regardless of whether one agrees with them or not), be non-judgmental, and empathise with suffering
4. Describe both qualitative and quantitative ways in which empathy improves patient outcomes, beyond 'getting' well from illness – i.e. qualitative aspects (the desire to feel heard, to have psychosocial needs met, to need for emotional support)

## Declarations

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.