

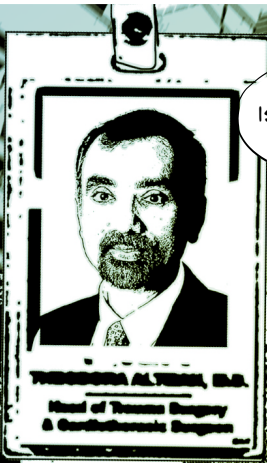
# SKETCHES FROM THE FRONT LINES

Written by Dr. Jillian Horton    Illustrated by G.M.B. Chomichuk  
with Lettering by Lyndon Radchenka

Ontario Medical Association Physician Health Program is pleased to collaborate with Dr. Jillian Horton on this project. Conveying physician experiences and narratives during the COVID19 pandemic serves to document experiences and share powerful narratives for a profession at a time when full focus is on doing the job, taking care of patients and each other.

If you are a physician, resident or medical student in Ontario and you would like support please call or email confidentially 1-800-851-6606  
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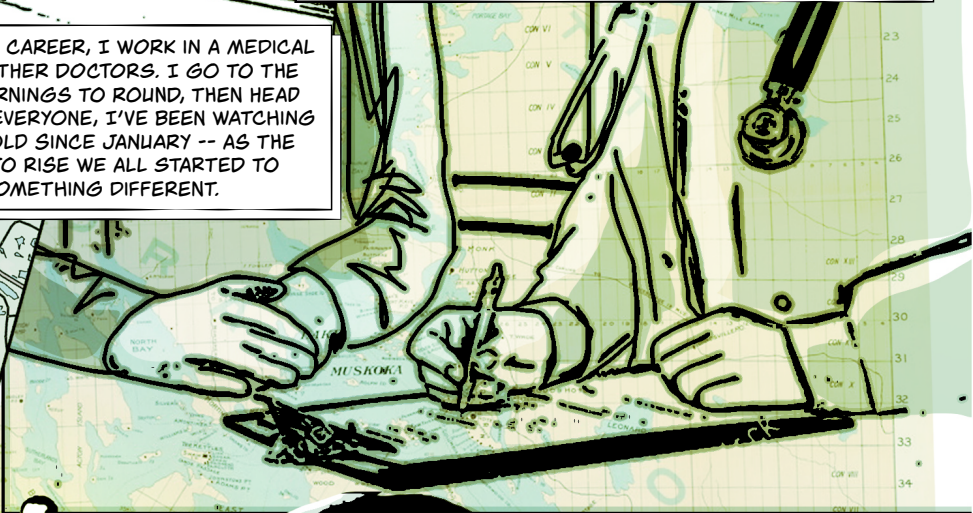
MY NAME IS **SOHAIL GANDHI**.

I GRADUATED FROM MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE **UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO** IN 1990.

I DID MY RESIDENCY AT **ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL**.

"I'D NEVER EVEN LEFT **TORONTO** FOR MORE THAN A WEEKEND WHEN I DID A **COMMUNITY ROTATION** IN **PARRY SOUND**. I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CHALLENGES AND SCOPE OF RURAL PRACTICE AND I ENDED UP IN **STAYNER**. THAT WAS 28 YEARS AGO. I LOVE THE **COMMUNITY AND THE PEOPLE**."

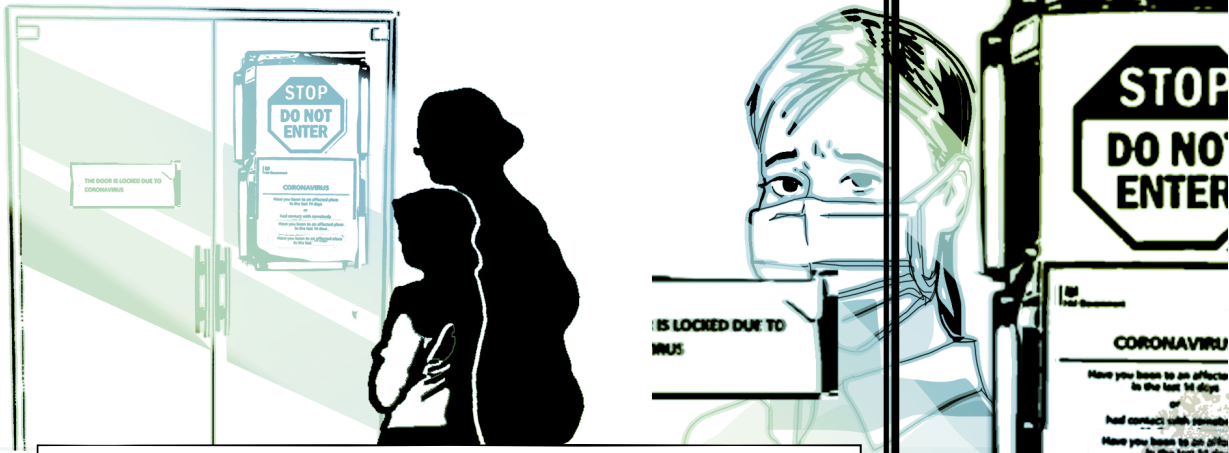
"AT THIS POINT IN MY CAREER, I WORK IN A MEDICAL OFFICE WITH FOUR OTHER DOCTORS. I GO TO THE HOSPITAL IN THE MORNINGS TO ROUND, THEN HEAD TO MY OFFICE. LIKE EVERYONE, I'VE BEEN WATCHING THIS SITUATION UNFOLD SINCE JANUARY -- AS THE NUMBERS STARTED TO RISE WE ALL STARTED TO REALIZE THIS WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT."



"I'VE BEEN CARING FOR THE SAME PEOPLE FOR 28 YEARS. I KNOW THEIR PARTNERS, KIDS, PARENTS. LAST WEEK I HAD TO START PROVIDING MUCH MORE VIRTUAL VISITS BY PHONE, EMAIL OR VIDEO LINK. **IT WAS HARD.**"







"I WORKED IN OUR NEW AFTER-HOURS CLINIC THE OTHER DAY--IT WAS **STRANGE**. NO PATIENTS IN THE WAITING ROOM. THEY **ALL** WAIT IN THEIR CARS, **WAIT** FOR ME TO CALL BACK. DOING **EVERYTHING** POSSIBLE TO DELIVER CARE VIRTUALLY WITHOUT THEM COMING IN. **IT'S NOT EASY**--THERE ISN'T THE SAME LEVEL OF TRUST THAT I HAVE WITH MY OWN PATIENTS. **BUT I TRY**."



"IT IS NOT THE **SAME** AS BEING FACE TO FACE WITH PEOPLE. NOT ONLY FOR **DIAGNOSIS** AND **CARE** BUT FOR WHAT IT GIVES **BACK** TO US. YOUNGER DOCS WOULD PROBABLY APPRECIATE KNOWING HOW A VERY SEASONED CLINICIAN CAN FIND VIRTUAL CARE FOR PATIENTS PRETTY JARRING--GUESS THERE WILL BE A LEARNING CURVE FOR **EVERYBODY**."

"BUT AMIDST THAT DISCOMFORT, I'VE BEEN REMINDING MYSELF OF WHAT I **CAN DO**. I CAN STILL TAKE CARE OF PEOPLE I KNOW. THOSE RELATIONSHIPS KEEP **ME** GOING, TOO."



Sorry...

FOR EVERYONE'S  
HEALTH AND SAFETY

WE'RE  
TEMPORARILY  
CLOSED

NOTICE  
OF  
CLOSURE

FERME

Sorry We're  
CLOSED

CLOSED



TEMPORARILY  
CLOSED

126

Collingwood

126

"DRIVING THROUGH **COLLINGWOOD**--IT'S THE SECOND WEEK OF MARCH BREAK--RESTAURANTS SHOULD BE **BUSTLING**, FULL OF PEOPLE. I KEEP THINKING ABOUT THE IMPACT ON MY PATIENTS--SO MANY RELY ON TOURISM. I'LL ALWAYS HAVE MY JOB AS A DOCTOR. BUT SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW I'M GOING TO KEEP MY CLINIC **AFLOAT**."

DOC, I  
HAVE **100 N95s** FOR  
YOU, WHERE CAN I DROP  
THEM OFF?"

THANK YOU **SO**  
MUCH, MIKE, THAT'S  
INCREDIBLE, PLEASE  
BRING THEM TO **THE**  
**HOSPITAL!**

"I HAD TO SEE A  
PATIENT AT THE  
RETIREMENT HOME  
THE OTHER DAY..."

IS MY  
**GRANDSON**  
COMING FOR A **VISIT**  
TODAY?

**NO**, WE CAN'T  
HAVE ANY VISITORS  
RIGHT NOW.

"THE LOOK ON HER  
FACE--IT **WOULD**  
**BREAK YOUR HEART.**"




"EVERYONE RIGHT NOW IS LOSING THINGS THAT MIGHT SEEM **TRIVIAL** BUT THOSE THINGS ARE **SO** IMPORTANT TO THEM... IT'S OK TO **MOURN** THOSE THINGS. IT'S ACTUALLY **VERY IMPORTANT**, AND THEN WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE **MISSING** AND WE **SEE** WHAT WE CAN FIND AS A **SUBSTITUTE** IN THE INTERIM."

2M

2M







"I'VE LIVED THROUGH **SARS**, **H1N1**, EVEN THE EARLIEST DAYS OF **AIDS**. THIS IS DIFFERENT IN SCALE BUT WE'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN THROUGH IT BEFORE. AND WE HAVE TO REMEMBER WE'LL GET THROUGH **THIS** TOO.



"ROMEO DALLAIRE SENT US A **MESSAGE** THE OTHER DAY AS HEALTH CARE WORKERS: "WE ARE THE FRONT LINES OF OUR BATTLE. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COUNT ON YOUR PROFESSIONAL INSTINCT--THE **KNOWLEDGE** THAT THE BEST YOU COULD DO HAS BEEN DONE..."

"...AND ULTIMATELY AS A SOCIETY WE WILL **GROW** WITH THIS AND THE EXPERIENCE WILL PROVIDE US THE MATURITY TO FACE **WHATEVER** OTHER POTENTIAL THREAT COMES DOWN THE ROAD."

"I FOUND SO MUCH **COMFORT** IN HIS WORDS.

"THAT WE ARE REPORTING FOR **DUTY**.

"BUT MOSTLY, THAT **WE ARE NOT ALONE**."



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