

Tove Mathiesen

Foreword

Donald E. Nease, Jr.,
Heide Otten, Günther Bergmann (Eds.)

**The Student,
the Patient
and the Illness**

Ascona Balint
Award Essays

2024



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Foreword

Welcome to all new readers of the Ascona students essay book series. Students, teachers, young and old, unexperienced beginners and experienced Balint group leaders.

I want to recommend you this book that will take you to the frontiers of young doctors' experiences in relation to their patients, and their reflections on the many complicated dilemmas they face during their early clinical experience.

We all remember this position, and we also recognise the dilemmas clinical and ethical, that are described, and that we must face during our whole professional life.

This is the reason why the Ascona students essay book is awaited with joy and excitement between experienced clinicians, and the reason why IBF is honoured to join the Ascona foundation in the publication of this booklet's series. The membership in a Balint groups as a basic prerequisite for the work as a doctor and for the maintenance of the doctor himself is a long term and appreciated working tool.

I hope that you will enjoy this book, share it with all your young students and your colleagues in the institutes and all over the world where clinical work takes place.

Congratulations to the three winners of the Ascona award 2024. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you at the IBF-conference in Boulder/Colorado September this year.

Tove Mathiesen
President of the International Balint Federation