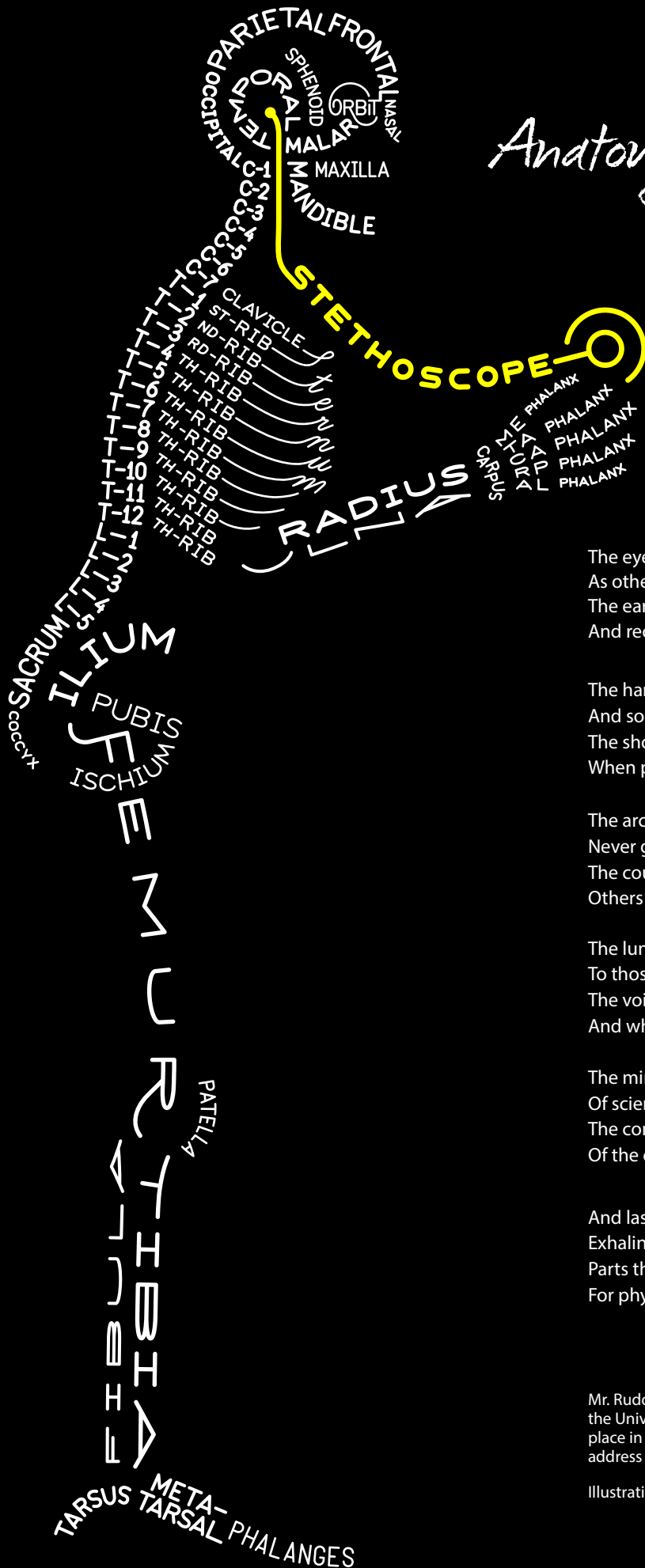


Anatomy of the physician



The eyes that seek to see the sick
 As others look askance,
 The ears that hear a lub dub drum
 And recognize the dance,

The hands that feel a fragile pulse
 And soothe with warming touch,
 The shoulder, broad to lean upon
 When patients lack a crutch,

The arcing back that bears their burdens
 Never giving out,
 The countenance that comforts
 Others overwhelmed with doubt,

The lungs that gust the breath of life
 To those who gasp for air,
 The voice that advocates aloud
 And whispers quiet prayers,

The mind that siphons equal shares
 Of science and of art,
 The compassion amaranthine
 Of the ever-pumping heart,

And last, the inmost wish to heal
 Exhaling from the soul—
 Parts that come together
 For physicians to be whole.

Mark Rudolf

Mr. Rudolf (AQA, University of Virginia, 2016) is an MD/PhD student at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. His poem received second place in *The Pharos* Poetry Award competition 2018. Mr. Rudolf's e-mail address is mar4as@virginia.edu.

Illustration by Aaron Kuehn