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ART OF MEDICINE

Burnout

Matt Heenan

Abstract

Multiple pieces of reclaimed pallet wood are sculpted into a lateral cerebrum and a gradient of burned wood visually represents a crisis among health care professionals.

Figure. *Burnout*



Media

Reclaimed pallet wood.

Caption

Like the wood of a tree, health professions students and practitioners grow stronger with each year of study and practice. Although wood is the strength and substance of a tree, allowing its branches and leaves to flourish despite harsh weather, wood also predisposes a tree to burn. *Burnout* is a metaphor for the emotional exhaustion, cynicism, and negligence that can engulf even the strongest students and clinicians.

Matt Heenan earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy in 2013 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is currently a third-year medical student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

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