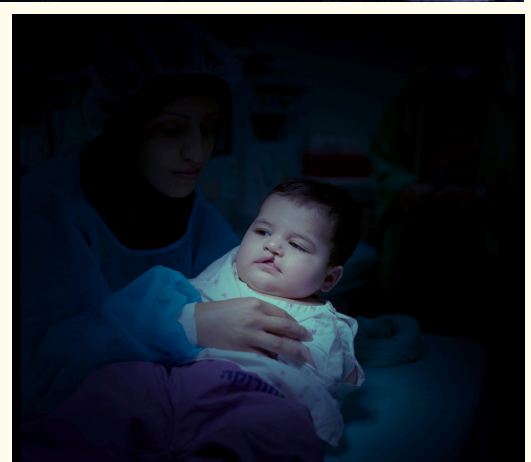
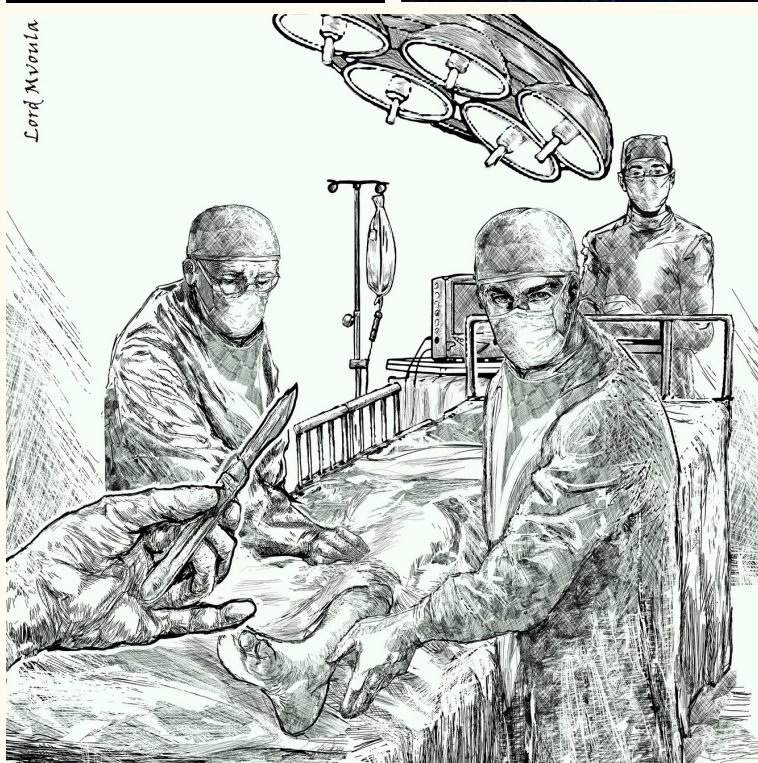


VULNERABILITY

OPERATING TOGETHER

THE JOURNAL



TOGETHER



STORIES — ART — POETRY — THOUGHTS

OPERATINGTOGETHER.ORG

A message from our Co-Director

Dr. Adam Lee Goldstein



When I was an undergraduate student, before the path of surgery, I studied geology. This was perfect for me because all I wanted to do was to be outside, have an excuse to wear overalls, and shave as little as possible. One of our intro courses in field geology was taught by a professor at the end of his career, a grandfather, a past chairman who was teaching this most basic intro course just because he wanted to, because he loved to. At the beginning of each class he would read a passage from a story, a poem, an essay. He would read words of others that meant something to him, that embodied in some completely different way exactly the beauty and points he wanted to get across in that day's lecture, or sometimes a moment of wisdom he wanted to get across to a room full of kids. One morning he started with a quote from the Native American author Sherman Alexie, "The Earth is our grandmother and that technology has become our mother and that they both hate each other." As he read the quote, barely looking at the page, you could see the glimmer in his eye of a fight, a belief, a cause much larger than him or anyone else. Much bigger than politics, borders, or despair. As I look back decades ago to this class, these quotes, poems, words of experience & thoughts are what I remember. They are what I carry with me all these years. His fight is what I carry after all these years and what we are bringing here.



WELCOME

OPERATING TOGETHER

THE JOURNAL

We welcome you all to our inaugural first chapter of
TOGETHER - The Journal.

TOGETHER - the journal, is our path of poems, stories, art, and thoughts. Coming TOGETHER are our healthcare workers, patients, friends all to share something they are passionate about, something they love, something that comes from their deepest places and means something special to them. Our first chapter orbits around the theme vulnerability. Here our brave community share something that might have made them uncomfortable, open up in an unfamiliar way, to let feelings out that have never really been out before. These artists, writers, photographers are our friends, our healthcare workers, our patients, our community that understands that coming TOGETHER is what makes these beautiful submissions shine most.

We hope that this is the first of many chapters. The first of a growing community operating TOGETHER, laughing together, learning together, and working together for what is most true and important in this short and beautiful life.

With Love,
The Operating Together Team



Eyes &
Scissors
©

Eyes & Scissors

ALONA KOBETZ

AGUR LEVY
HEBREW - ORIGINAL EDITION

אבל/ עגור לוי
אבל אמרת
בעצם הבטחת
לא, הזהרת
אפילו איימת
וקיימת
וקיימת
וקיימת
שוב ושוב אמרת
איימת
רצחת
וגם ירשת
הפשטת אותי
מכל נכסי
גם מבלי שביקשת
רק איימת
ומיד קיבלת
לא שמעת
את זעקותיי
המשכת
וכתבת שאמרת
שהבטחת שהזהרת
שאימת
וברחת
מפניי כאילו הייתי המוות
אני החיים, כתבתי לך
אני בחיים

שתית
את כל הרעל
ולא השארת לי
כלום.

AGUR LEVY
ARABIC TRANSLATION

لكن / إيجور ليفي
لكنك قلت
لقد وعدت فعلا
لا ، لقد حذرت
حتى هدد
وهو موجود
وهو موجود
وهو موجود
قلت مرارا وتكرارا
هدد
لقد قتلت
ورثت
لقد جردتني
من كل ممتلكاتي
حتى من دون أن نسأل
هدد فقط
وحصلت عليه على الفور
ألم تسمع
صرخاتي
واصلت
وكتبت ما قلته
التي وعدت بها حذرت
الذي هدد
وهربت
من وجهي كأني الموت
أنا الحياة ، كتبت لك
أنا على قيد الحياة!

شربت
كل السم
وأنت لم تتركني
لا شيء.

AGUR LEVY

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

But you said
In fact you promised
No, you warned Even threatened
And did it
And did it
And did it
Over and over
you said, Threatened, Murdered And inherited
You stripped me naked of all my belongings
Without asking to
You only threatened And immediately you
received.
You didn't hear My cries.
You kept going And wrote that you said
That you promised and warned That you
threatened And ran away From me like I was death
I am the life, I wrote to you, I am alive!
You drank All the poison And didn't leave me
Anything.

AGING

Another day -

Another year

Thoughts go back

Is life a dream!

My children so far away

I don't know when

I was so happy; when

they surrounded me

Now time flies and

Images come to mind

Is it all real

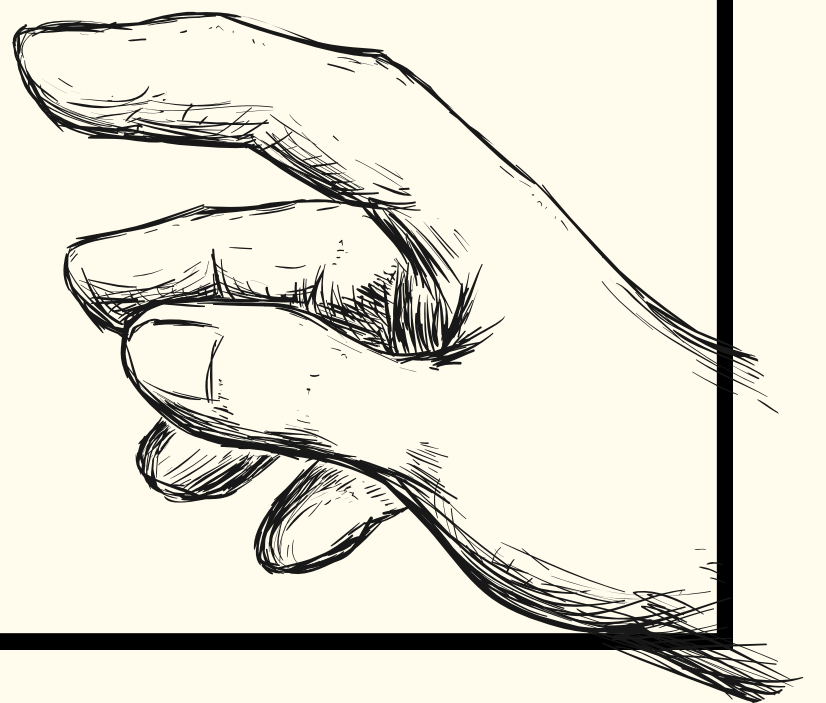
Was I there?

Miriam Goldstein



Miriam Goldstein

**Grandmother, mother to five,
immigrant from the former Soviet
Union. She was a flower to Staten
Island, New York. Loved always...**





PRINTS
MICHAEL LIANI

Michael Liani

Michael Liani is a multidisciplinary artist who mostly works in photography, video and cinema. He was born in 1987 in Migdal Haemek to parents of Jewish Moroccan descent. His work deals with the central and the peripheral, and with the gender and aesthetics of media. He creates from an intimate place; his eye is deeply personal and strives in his photographs and installations to bring forth the humanity of his subjects. Liani has received acclaim for his work both in Israel and abroad. He is the recipient of the Yitzhak Navon Prize for the Cultivation of Israeli Cultures Prize from the Israeli Ministry of Culture and Sport, The America-Israel Cultural Foundation honors award, the NEXT! Docaviv Award, among others. His work has been exhibited at the UCLA Biennial and the Moscow International Biennale for Young Art. He participated in a group exhibition at the Hansen House supported by The Israel Museum, and has held a solo exhibition at the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, the Fresh Paint Art Fair, and more.



Skyfall

ANNA AYACH

RACHELY TARAZI
HEBREW - ORIGINAL EDITION

מעבר בין עונות
רעידת אדמה
קולקטיבית,
מרגישה אישית
פרטית.

עונה בגסיסה
שמש מבושת
הלב שלי על רטט
ואני מתאמצת
לא לבכות
את החושך הקרב
של עננים
של גשמים.
רוצה לאהוב
לרקוד בגשם
לבחור להיות פגיעה
בזמן אחר בשנה
להפסיק לנסות
לדחות את הקץ
לא להתלונן
להנות מהרגע
הבלתי נמנע
פגיעות זו בחירה.

RACHELY TARAZI
ARABIC TRANSLATION

الانتقال بين الفصول

هزة ارضية

رفقة

مؤثر

خاص

إجابة الموت

، شمس خجولة

رعدة قلبي

وأحاول

لا تبكي

، ظلمة الملعب

من الغيوم

.من الأمطار

تريد أن تحب

,رقص تحت المطر

اختر أن تكون عرضة للخطر

.في وقت آخر من السنة

توقف عن المحاولة

، تأجيل النهاية

عدم الشكوى

استمتع باللمحة

، لا مفر منه

.الضعف هو الاختيار

RACHELY TARAZI
ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Transition between seasons
Earthquake
collective,
Feels personal
private
dying answer
shy sun,
My heart is on vibration
And I'm trying
dont cry
the pitch darkness,
of clouds
of rains.
want to love
dancing in the rain,
choose to be vulnerable
at another time of the year.
stop trying
postpone the end,
not to complain
enjoy the moment
the inevitable,
Vulnerability is a choice.

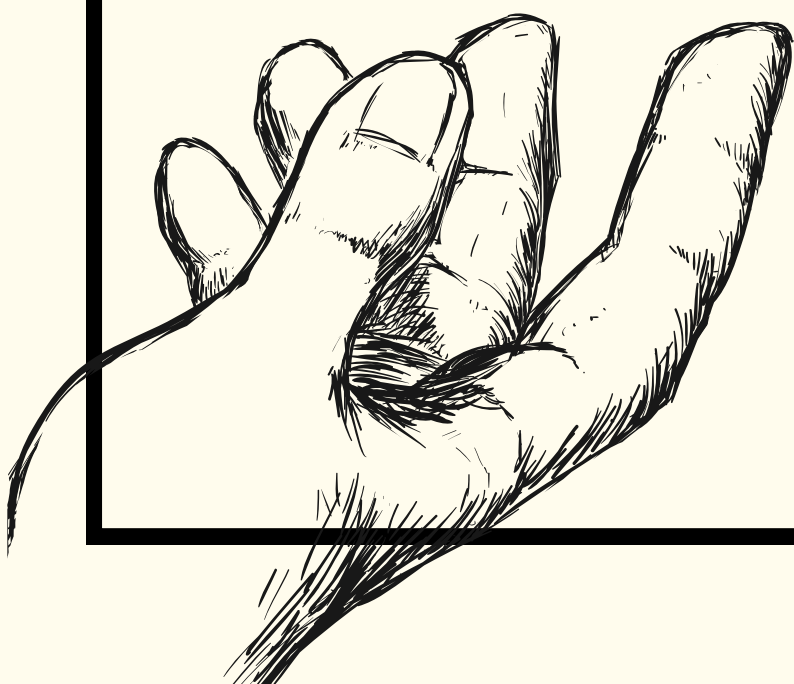


This is the story of a body that fought for over fifteen years.
This is the story of a mind that has been borrowed deep enough to feel so
sick at a violent, soft, plenty rhythm.
Nothing else made her to feel so vulnerable...
but empathy has been the key to create a connection and to defend that
fragility,
day by day.

ROME, DECEMBER 22 TH , 2022
MARILENA

Marilena

She is a highly motivated young scientist from the Italian National Institute of Health working in the field of immunology and infectious disease. She truly believes in cooperation, communication and good human connections thus, she wishes to support the outstanding mission of Operating Together.

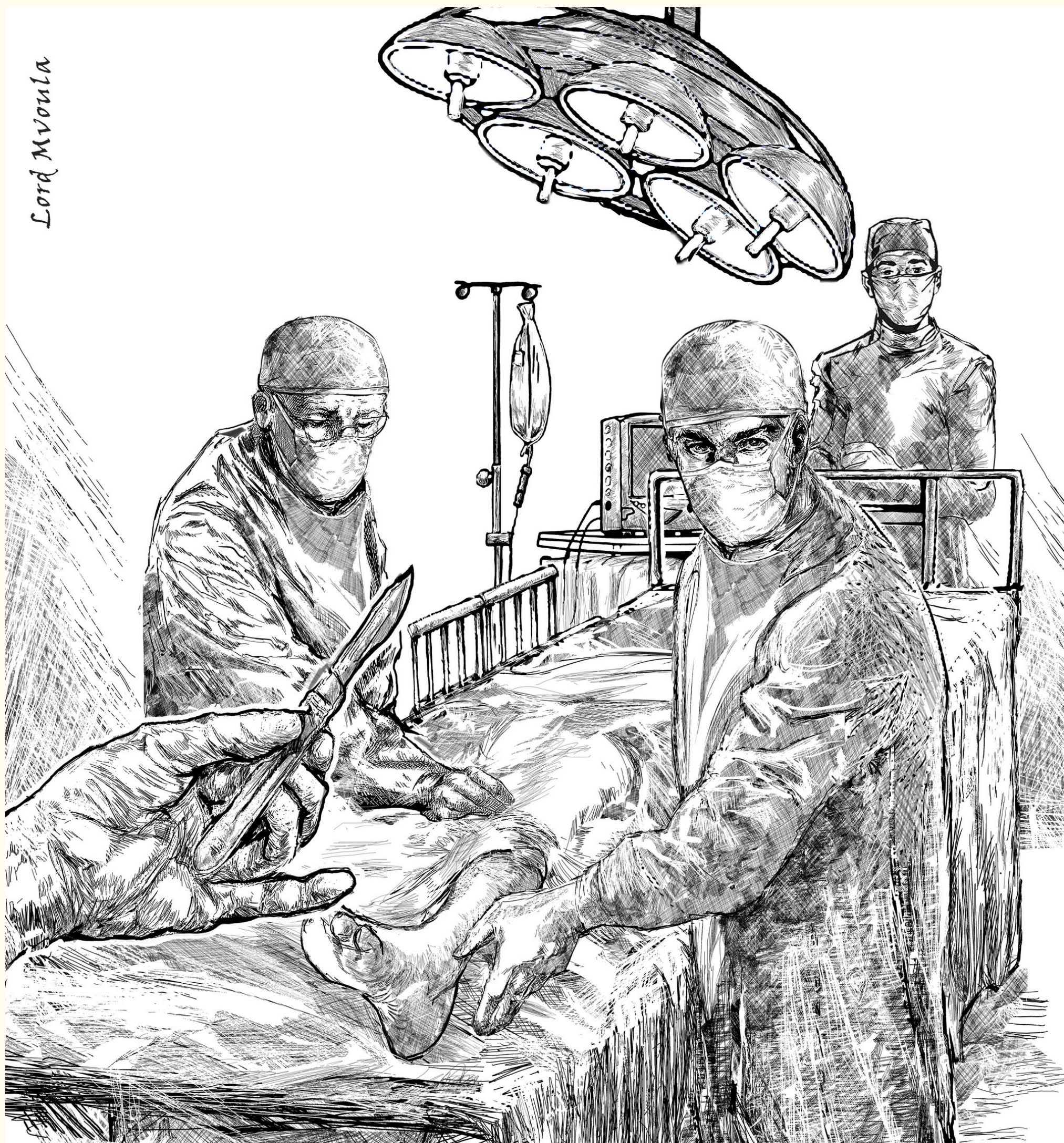




Phoenix

ANNA AYACH

Lord Mvoula



LORD MVOULA

SURGICAL RESIDENT, LINCOLN MENTAL
HEALTH AND MEDICAL CENTER

Lord Mvoula

Lord is a General Surgery Resident at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, a level I trauma center. His responsibilities include participating in patient care, developing and implementing treatment plans, conducting patient rounds, conducting research activities, and providing training to medical students and other healthcare professionals.

Lord's job is distinctive and fulfilling because it requires technical proficiency, problem-solving capabilities, and the ability to immediately impact patients' health. Caring for others is his passion, and he prioritizes service for people as a core value. Lord strives to set himself apart from his peers through unwavering determination and a tireless work ethic, taking immense pride in his commitment to excellence.

He earned his Medical Degree from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, his Bachelor's in Biology from the University of Houston, and his Associate's in Science from Houston Community College. In addition, he has received several honors and awards, including the HEERF II Grant, the Plains Capital Endowment Scholarship, and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases award. He was also recognized as the Optimal Learning Environment Committee representative for the MD's Class of 2022.

Prior to medical school/ residency, he was interested in the M.D./D.O. Ph.D. dual track. Although that's no longer an option, his interest in research has not changed. Lord still reads research papers at leisure and hopes to provide his patients with updated, peer-reviewed care. He currently serves as a reviewer in multiple journals.

Originally from Congo-Brazzaville, Lord considers Houston, Texas his home. In his free time, he enjoys teaching, reading, writing, playing video games, and being a big brother to his siblings.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT CONTRIBUTED

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SUBMIT TO OUR NEXT CHAPTER ON OUR WEBSITE

[OPERATINGTOGETHER.ORG](https://operatingtogether.org)