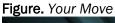


**Death Has Us in Check** 

Beltran N. Torres Izquierdo

# Abstract

This digital self-portrait considers what pending loss of patients to a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) feels like. *Your Move* represents clinicians' struggles to help patients as a game of chess against death, who seems always one step ahead. The clinician is tired, and death is cheating, but giving up is not an option, no matter how bad his position on the board.





# **Media**Photoshop composite.

journalofethics.org

# Caption

This self-portrait was created in Photoshop using brush tools to blend over 25 images and to modify light, shadow, and color gradations. Death's pawns include SARS-CoV-2 novel coronavirus proteins and are backed by bacteriophages. The physician deploys hand sanitizers, syringes, steroid vials, and prescription medications to try to win, but he lacks a queen; unavailability of a powerful tool, in most cases, will not position him well on the board to win against death. This game is probably lost. He keeps playing.

Beltran N. Torres Izquierdo is a third-year medical student at Universidad Central del Caribe in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. Previously, he served for 3 years as a translator at Casa de Salud, a clinic for underserved patients, and for 2 years as part of a Red Cross disaster action team. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biological sciences from Webster University.

#### Citation

AMA J Ethics. 2021;23(5):E430-431.

### DOI

10.1001/amajethics.2021.430.

## Conflict of Interest Disclosure

The author(s) had no conflicts of interest to disclose.

The viewpoints expressed in this article are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the AMA.

Copyright 2021 American Medical Association. All rights reserved. ISSN 2376-6980