

POETRY | FALL 2021

## Bodywork

By Aaron McGuffin

Our patients have left the building.

to idle in the staff lot,  
born-again  
for the untrusted sick.

Between the lines  
they are now EHR symbionts—

Fever white  
Cadillac

Subaru blue  
pink eye

Jeep Cherokee  
hives

Congestion white  
Sorento.

Cobalt Gray  
cough.

How we now mechanic  
the stethoscope over mufflers.

Wrench a neck  
of palpable nodes.

Check the battery  
of depression in back seats.

Gauge the temperature  
of broken-down parents.

Repair inside  
and turn ourselves off.

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**Aaron McGuffin is a pediatrician and medical educator at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, West Virginia. His love for writing is a gift from his late mother, Rosemary, a lifelong English professor. Writing is McGuffin's anxietytic. Previous poems have appeared in *Pharos* and *JAMA Pediatrics*.**

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