Keep Coming

Sarah Wakeman, MD

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA.

They shuffle and saunter
Strut and stagger
Through my open door
Week after week.

They banter and bargain
Beg and bellow
Make promises and deals
Tell stories, most true.

They lay bare
Their deepest wounds
Like the abscesses
I sometimes drain.

I return their calls
Make more time
Write letters to lawyers
Challenge deceit.

I held one man's hand
"People are scared of me"
Salty sorrow coursed
Over tattooed teardrops.

I return handshakes and hugs
Say to him, to them
I will be here
Keep coming.

Corresponding Author: Sarah Wakeman, MD; Massachusetts General Hospital, 122 Union Park, St., Apt. 1, Boston, MA 02118, USA (e-mail: swakeman@partners.org).