

MIND TO MIND

*Creative writing that explores the abstract side
of our profession and our lives*

Carol Wiley Cassella, M.D., Editor

Father and Daughter: Rites of Passage

Alicia M. Kowalski, M.D.*

BBABLES morph into meaningful words
Awkward steps holding his hand, for support and comfort, evolve
into graceful posture and perfected balance
Read-a-Long books at bedtime launch a fervor for independent
novels
She is in her world....no longer needing a father's guidance
Rites of passage.....

Driving lessons, college essays, a wedding
The girl morphs into a beautiful woman
Her sweet voice, big wide eyes, and witty humor carry her far
Medical school and residency polish the calling to care for mankind
into a practicing physician
She is in her world....no longer needing a father's guidance
Rites of passage.....

In the mornings, he sees her in Pre-op
Now she holds her patients' hands....providing support and
comfort
In the OR, she manages assignments with confidence and ease
Patients and colleagues alike respect her and admire her.
She has entered his world now....no longer needing a father's
guidance
Rites of passage.....

* The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas. amkowalsk@mdanderson.org
Accepted for publication May 7, 2012.

Copyright © 2013, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. Anesthesiology 2013; 118:981