

MIND TO MIND

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

Carol Wiley Cassella, M.D., Editor

Some Day

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S “YOU know, the ‘good old days’ weren’t always good,
And tomorrow ain’t as bad as it seems.” - Billy Joel

Some Day...

Taking a patient history
Will be as easy as swiping a credit card.

But Today...

I will examine, review, and analyze
The information I have before me.

Some Day...

A magic pill will reconfigure your DNA
And virtually eliminate most disease.

But Today...

I will study, practice and manage
Obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

Some Day...

Opioids won’t cause
Nausea, pruritis and respiratory depression.

But Today...

I will prescribe judiciously
And adjust for undesirable side effects.

Some Day...

We will live in a truly wireless world
Free from geometrical constraints.

But Today...

I will wrestle with the wires, the tubes, and the lines
And hope it doesn’t fall apart when moving the patient.

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Some Day...
An anesthetic recipe will be
Calculated, titrated and delivered by a computer.
But Today...
I will dose, monitor and redose
Based upon what I observe.

Some Day...
A single monitor will tell us everything:
Oximetry, blood pressure, cardiac output, and the rest.
But Today...
I will use the tools I have before me
And try to maintain homeostasis.

Some Day...
People will view a laryngoscope the way my kids
View a 45 record, and ask, "What is *that*?"
But Today...
I will load my blade and check the light
And do it "the old-fashioned way."

Some Day...
No needle will enter the body
Without first visualizing the anatomy.
But Today...
I will use the landmarks I was taught
And believe that it's better to be lucky than good.

Some Day...
A colleague might pull me aside and delicately suggest
That I quit the game while I'm ahead.
But Today...
I will don my scrubs and pull up my mask
And be thankful for the opportunity to play.