

# MIND TO MIND

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

Carol Wiley Cassella, M.D., Editor

## This Is My Every Day



David A. Edwards, M.D., Ph.D.

*Editor's note: Mind to Mind is pleased to include our first performed song. To hear the musical selection that accompanies the text, please listen to Supplemental Digital Content 1, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B70>, or use your smart phone's camera to scan the QR code to the right of the title above and hear "This Is My Every Day." Note that a QR app reader may be needed.*

### Body:

I forgive my wife for not understanding everything it is I do as an anesthesiologist, and so I also forgive the general public for thinking I *only put you to sleep*. It smarts a little though, and I think that it is safe to say, that my medical and surgical colleagues also have no idea of the breadth of what an anesthesiologist does. Only *we* know what *we* do.

In tribute to the variety of what anesthesiologists do, I dedicate this song. In each verse is a patient we all know and an anesthesiologist too: in the ICU, in the cancer center, in the trauma bay, in the induction room. You sustain comatose patients. You preserve humanity and give life in the final moments before death. You move swiftly to alleviate the suffering of children. You notice pain in the forced smile of a parent and your hand brings comfort – and yes, you are the master of the art of gentle induction, and original purveyor of personalized pain relief to the parturient.

I think that the incredibly complex and diverse field of anesthesiology is made to look subtle by the expert anesthesiologist. A hundred times a day you turn complication in darkness to bright light...and this is your every day.

Supplemental Digital Content is available for this article. Direct URL citations appear in the printed text and are available in both the HTML and PDF versions of this article. Links to the digital files are provided in the HTML text of this article on the Journal's Web site ([www.anesthesiology.org](http://www.anesthesiology.org)).

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**This is my every day** (Supplemental Digital Content 1, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B70>)

Musical arrangement / Songwriter: David A. Edwards, M.D., Ph.D.

Vocal Performance: Kristoffer Hyldegaard

Musical arrangement / Production: Daniel B. Rothman

### **Verse 1**

She needs to stay asleep  
Her body is still too weak  
She's been here for a while  
But someone is staying close by

The cancer worked within  
The old man is still smiling  
He has his chance to say goodbye  
I'm there to ease his time

### **Bridge**

Complications  
Darkness and bright light  
Doctors, patients  
Fighting the same fight

### **Chorus**

This is my every day  
Reading and learning and searching for new ways  
Trying to change  
Chaos to beautiful things in the same place

This is my home  
The road and the hospital's places where I roam  
Where do I go  
Running to you, deciphering codes

### **Verse 2**

A kid with broken limbs  
Stops screaming as the drugs kick in  
He tries to prove he's cool  
My job is to help him through

I see the pain in his smile  
Waiting for his youngest child  
Scared to be afraid  
I'm here to take his pain

**Bridge**

Complications  
 Darkness and bright light  
 Doctors, patients  
 Fighting the same fight

**Chorus x2**

This is my every day  
 Reading and learning and searching for new ways  
 Trying to change  
 Chaos to beautiful things in the same place

This is my home  
 The road and the hospital's places where I roam  
 Where do I go  
 Running to you, deciphering codes

**Chords:****Verse**

| A | D9 | F#m | E6 |  
 | A | D9 | F#m | Esus4 E |

**Bridge**

| Bm7 | C#m7 |

**Chorus**

| A D9 | F#m E |