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Standing My Ground: Memoir of a Woman Physician. By Clair M. Callan, M.D., M.B.A., C.P.E. Bloomington, Indiana, Archway Publishing, 2014. Pages: 200. Price: \$15.99.

Based on the title of this book, *Standing My Ground: Memoir of a Woman Physician*, I expected a description of the challenges facing women in medicine in the mid to late 1900s. Rather than that, the book describes the remarkable accomplishments of a woman who had completed her medical training in Dublin in 1963, in spite of the constraints posed by being a full-time homemaker and mother.

Claire Callan describes herself as reluctant to enter the field of anesthesiology. Her mother was an anesthesiologist and while able to financially provide for her growing family, Dr. Callan remembers her as being constantly on call and frequently unavailable for family dinners and events. It was only during her internship that Dr. Callan found herself increasingly “drawn” to anesthesiology and applied for a residency in the specialty. In many ways, the course of her training and early adulthood were determined by her children and her husband’s professional development. Several months after beginning training in Ireland, she moved with her husband to Connecticut so that he could further his career as a psychiatrist. Once in the United States, they moved several times with their growing family. Eager to re-engage in medicine, she worked as a medical director at a summer camp once her oldest child was 3 yr old. For a period of time after that, she worked as a part-time physician at Connecticut Valley Hospital. Seeking greater opportunities, she obtained her license to practice medicine in Connecticut in 1969 and then took a position as an anesthesiologist in North Hartford, Connecticut. The hours were long and unwilling to make the same choices as her mother, she chose to leave the position to spend more time with her family. Shortly after making this decision, her husband was drafted and they moved again, this time to Missouri. Dr. Callan attributes the early development of her leadership skills to her experiences during her early adulthood when she was a volunteer in many community organizations and had to adapt to several different living and work situations, exercises that allowed her to become increasingly confident as she managed each issue that developed.

Dr. Callan’s first foray into organized medicine occurred after they moved back to Connecticut from Missouri and she became a delegate of the Auxiliary of the American Medical Association. This role taught her that much could be achieved with a small staff—a lesson to which she would refer on several occasions in the future. With increasing exposure to the leadership opportunities provided by this and other volunteer activities, Dr. Callan became increasingly comfortable

in management and began to seek out opportunities that would allow her to make a difference.

Dr. Callan’s first professional leadership opportunity came when she obtained a part-time position reviewing claims for Medicaid patients at the Department of Income Maintenance (DIM) of the State of Connecticut. With this, she became one of a small group of people responsible for reviewing the eligibility of applicants to Medicaid. In this role, she also reviewed the practices of physicians accused of submitting fraudulent charges to the state and developed a reputation as a principled reviewer. Just months after beginning her work at the DIM, Dr. Callan became its Medical Director and was responsible for several new programs that are now well established. These programs included the introduction of an electronic payment system for Medicaid claims and the implementation of a gatekeeper system designed to decrease medical costs by requiring Medicaid recipients to see a general practitioner before they could see a specialist. With changes in the politics of Connecticut, funding for the DIM and its programs was decreased and, with that, leadership was changed. Dr. Callan left the DIM and was free to seek other leadership opportunities—of which she has had many, including President elect of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Millfield Press, Vice President of the American College of Physician Executives, Board Member of the American College of Medical Quality, Vice President of Science, Quality and Public Health of the American Medical Association, President of the Illinois State Medical Society, President of the American Medical Women’s Association, and Vice President of Medical and Regulatory Affairs and Advance Research of Abbott Laboratories.

Rather than being gender specific, Dr. Callan’s experience is largely applicable to both men and women who have aspirational goals and the motivation to seek opportunities to advance. There are frequent pearls of advice throughout the book such as

- The importance of volunteerism
- Working effectively with a small staff
- Meeting at least three people at each meeting attended and making significant contact with them as a means of networking
- A job can be taken away, regardless of how qualified an employee is
- Monitoring a work environment for change to be able to leave on one’s own terms.

Her experience, though, was not free of discrimination. While providing anesthesia for patients receiving electroconvulsive therapy, the nature of her part-time work was changed, and the male leadership of the department assigned the women members of the staff to cover the services deemed to be less desirable, obstetrics, and the electroconvulsive therapy unit. Although the female staff protested, the staffing was not

changed, and Dr. Callan stepped down from her position. Many years later, while on the board of the American Medical Association as the interim Vice President for Scientific Affairs, her male peers had brass nameplates and Dr. Callan had a paper nameplate. For anyone who has not been the focus of discrimination, this vignette may seem petty; for anyone who has lived with discrimination in her day-to-day work experience, it will affirm the sense of having been treated unfairly.

Although the book is an impressive recounting of an individual's accomplishments, the timeline in the initial portions of the book can be difficult to follow; there are rare errors in terminology that will be noticed by the practicing anesthesiologist; especially toward the end of the text, there is an unfortunate tendency to focus on the shortcomings of the people who had been promoted over her. *Standing My Ground: Memoir of a Woman Physician* provides an opportunity to glimpse some of the challenges and accomplishments of one of the early pioneers in medicine. The activity at the American Medical Women's Association meeting in 1985,¹ when Dr. Callan completed her role as President, included contract negotiation workshops, handling dual-physician-couple problems, malpractice issues, and sexual misconduct as an ethical issue. Resolutions passed by the House at that time included recommendations that the American Medical Women's Association work to eliminate discrimination against lesbian physicians and patients and to support human rights bills and equal rights for all and that further educational efforts and ordinances be enacted against smoking to curb the growing incidence of lung cancer in women. The inaugural address of the incoming president, Constance Battle, "included comments on agreeing to disagree, becoming the best we can be, and taking courage to move boldly forward."¹ All seem pertinent even now, 30 yr later, and serve as a reminder of the work that still remains to be done to achieve gender equality in anesthesiology, where 37% of anesthesia residency applicants are women,² 13% of departmental chairs are women,³ and fewer than 3% of our society presidents have been women.

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References

1. Good Work, Good Times: 1985 Annual Meeting in What's Happening in AMWA, Vol. XI. New York, American Medical Women's Association, Winter, 1986, p 1
2. The State of Women in Academic Medicine, the Pipeline and Pathways to Leadership. Washington, D.C., Association of American Medical Colleges, 2014, p 9
3. The State of Women in Academic Medicine, the Pipeline and Pathways to Leadership. Washington, D.C., Association of American Medical Colleges, 2014, p 12

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Anesthesia for Genetic, Metabolic, and Dysmorphic Syndromes of Childhood. Edited by Victor C. Baum, M.D., Jennifer O'Flaherty, M.D., M.P.H. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2015. Pages: 496. Price: \$219.99.

There are thousands of recognized congenital syndromes and sequences that have major impact on the conduct of an anesthetic. When faced with a child with an unusual syndrome, even the most experienced pediatric anesthesiologist often needs a source to consult about the multisystem ramifications that can influence the anesthetic plan. In my experience, there are four major references that can provide quick and comprehensive information and that I recommend in this situation.

First is the Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man Web site (omim.org), an encyclopedic and comprehensive compendium of virtually everything that is known about all genetic syndromes. It includes links to every published article in the medical literature and a "clinical synopsis" that lists the prominent features of each syndrome in outline form. Although it is incredibly complete, well indexed and hyperlinked, and has extensive search capability, it unfortunately contains no pictures illustrative of the conditions, and anesthesia-specific information is often buried in the details and not readily apparent.

Second is *Smith's Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation*,¹ the classic text originally authored by David Smith, a pioneer in dysmorphology, and now in its 7th edition. It is lavishly illustrated and is compiled in an easy-to-use outline form with extensive indexes and cross-indexes by syndrome, symptom, and physical finding. However it, too, lacks anesthesia specificity and detail.

Finally are two books by prominent pediatric anesthesiologists that seek to address the limitation of the previous references with regard to anesthesia specificity: Bruno Bissonnette's *Syndromes: Rapid Recognition and Perioperative Implications*² and *Anesthesia for Genetic, Metabolic, and Dysmorphic Syndromes of Childhood* by Victor Baum and Jennifer O'Flaherty, which is now available in a new 3rd edition. This ambitious but concise encyclopedia provides a short description of virtually every syndrome a clinician is likely to encounter and concludes each synopsis with the details of its specific anesthetic implications. Equally important, of course, is that it specifies when there are no particular anesthetic considerations for a syndrome. New to this edition is the inclusion of an e-book bundled in the purchase price of the text (and apparently not available separately) that is accessible either online using a password supplied with the book or *via* smartphone or tablet. This greatly enhances the usefulness of the text when faced with a syndromic patient who presents emergently when one does not have immediate access to the library. There are numerous photographs, some in color, which illustrate