

# MIND TO MIND

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

*Stephen T. Harvey, M.D., Editor*

## Vial Cap Eye

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I picked up the propofol vial and looked at the cap: the blue top, just the color of my childrens' eyes. But even that pleasant thought did not mitigate the pain that it took for the simple movement to remove the cap. I had just had carpal tunnel surgery and I assumed my biggest challenge would be masking. It was such a shock to realize that the most challenging part of my day was popping off vial caps. I had always taken the caps for granted and all of a sudden the caps represented a challenge. It never occurred to me that I would have difficulty with them, but once it did I thought I was



**Fig. 1.** Vial cap eye.

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going to beat it. I looked around the room, and, for once, took notice of all the vial caps. They seemed to form a mosaic of color. They were winning, but I wouldn't let them. I started collecting the caps, and at the end of the day, I would look down at my collection and instead of focusing on the pain it represented, I focused on the beauty I could create (fig. 1).