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the clinical faculty and the dean's office feel is adequate compensation (recognition) for their time and expertise, and a resolution to this problem must be found quickly.

The UNBC medical program is a grand experiment and it needs to succeed. This project is extremely important for the people of the North. The administrative core of the UBC Medical School must not drop the ball on what is bound to be a red-hot political item in the next provincial election. If UBC doesn't push the right political buttons and convince Victoria of the enormous political points that clinical faculty funding guarantees would create, particularly in the North, it should be prepared to deal not only with the new government it may be responsible for creating, but also with a large clinical faculty at UBC and its satellite campuses that remains as dysfunctional and unhappy as it is now.

All that negative stuff aside, I can't remember a medical school function I enjoyed more than this recent one. The optimism in the room was refreshing and the truth is if they achieve better than a 50% retention rate, the whole thing will have been a great success. I look forward to seeing just that.

—JAW

Privilege

Sometimes I wonder how much any of us look beyond our own immediate concerns and needs. I can't remember if it was the seventies, eighties, or nineties that was supposed to be the "me decade," but it has certainly dragged on. The word for the new millennium often seems to be solipsism—and the fact that I use a word like *solipsism* without bothering to define it shows how little we seem to care for the needs of others.

But then one of those events happens that is significant only in retrospect, and we have to think again. I attended a memorial service for a friend and neighbor, someone I have known for over 25 years as a captain of industry and a pillar of the community, who had died suddenly and unexpectedly. The community gathered, along with other captains of industry, and the service was simple, dignified, and sad. The reflections of the family members were particularly touching, and we were left with the impression that this had been a person with depth and feeling. The captains of industry seemed a little restless during the service, but perhaps that was just me.



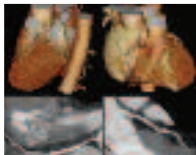

The service was followed by a reception (in many places it would

have been a wake), at which the captains of industry—and there were quite a few of them—spoke about the qualities of my friend and neighbor. They lauded his qualities of integrity, patience, perseverance, and vision. They applauded his achievements on behalf of the community. They reminisced about his quirks of personality. And yet, and yet... there was a hollow at the centre of the achievements that they praised so highly. The qualities he showed, and the accomplishments that were associated with him all surrounded objects and activities, committees and functions. Things, but not people. And I was left reflecting, once again, how privileged we are in this most human of professions.

Unlike my friend and neighbor, I can't claim to have built any landmarks or shaken the hand of visiting royalty (although I was not too far from Elton John on one memorable occasion). But I have held up a newborn baby for an exhausted, exhilarated mother and father to see. I have held the hand of a frightened young woman as she drifted into unconsciousness before surgery, and I have held the hand of an elderly woman as she died. I have been told things of the most personal,

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tragic, and humorous nature by people who trusted me—and all without asking. Maybe I didn't help all of them, but it certainly felt like I had, and that is as rewarding as it gets.

None of us could seek more fulfillment than this. So, for now, I have stopped wondering how many of us look beyond our own needs and concerns. It doesn't matter, because at least in this profession we have the privilege of being involved with people who reward us with their confidence. Everyone should be so lucky.

— TCR

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The 2005 BCMA health promotion campaign, *Eat well, Play well, Stay well*, is promoting healthy active living to reduce and prevent childhood obesity.

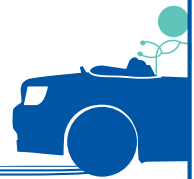
BCMA is looking for physicians, medical residents, and medical school students to provide a short presentation at school parent advisory committee meetings in their community. Volunteers will be provided with a PowerPoint presentation and handout material on healthy active living.

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