

MIND TO MIND

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

Carol Wiley Cassella, M.D., Editor

One-night Stands ...

James M. Berry, M.D.

The House of God defines anesthesia
As a “non-patient contact” specialty, and
I am often asked, “Do you miss the relationships?”
The frail woman with pictures of her new grandbaby
And the box of cookies in hypertension clinic
every Christmas.
I think of my relationship with the nice man
With the aorto-duodenal fistula, who I came
to know well (both inside and out) one bloody night
and how he came back later just to shake my hand ...

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And the tracheal papillomatosis patient, who
after 28 visits, had created his own anesthetic plan, and
Walked out after 10 minutes in PACU saying
“See you next time!”
And, every day how I meet new friends and
travel with them through dark valleys, and
they are not afraid ...
So, I think back and smile and reply
“No, I don’t miss them at all ...”