

# MIND TO MIND

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

*Carol Wiley Cassella, M.D., Editor*

## Electrocardiogram

Audrey Shafer, M.D.

**T**he repolarization of a t wave  
an ocean roller over an invisible sand bar, a lull  
until a p wave begins its small rise above the isoelectric  
the chop of look-at-me qrs's  
not called complexes for nothing  
peaks, troughs, weddings, divorces  
births transforming more than bodies into mothers  
and deaths  
underneath the swells  
salt churns cold and warm currents  
a low t wave stretches into a u  
waves in succession  
storms of qrs's surging into t's  
wide and lopsided as sinking freighters

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till a pause between series  
the ocean a windless lake  
no more p's, no more qrs's, no more t's  
  
this is my autobiography:  
the story of a wave  
and then the next