

## The Singing Bowl

*Anne Simpson*

“What keeps this light from pouring out as light?”  
Agha Shahid Ali

I

She recalls two high, arched windows in a farmhouse attic,  
light slipping from side to side. The house was tilted;  
it could have been a ship, going down. People might have needed rescue.

II

Perhaps she’s been made to promise something because of what she’s seen.

III

During chemo, she studies lymph nodes in the ceiling tiles.  
Once she saw a farmhouse lanced with light.  
It was evening.  
She carried it with her. Radiant house.

IV

There’s nothing in the bowl, not even desire. Only nausea.

V

The chaplain’s hands make shapes in air, as if she’s building a house of cards.  
There, she’s done it. The delicacy of the world,  
one thing resting on another.

VI

She’s a child in the house of her body. The doors  
open and close,  
open and close,  
open and close,  
from daylight to evening. Eyes, mouth, lungs, heart.

VII

Light poured through the windows from west to east.  
Sky, speaking in tongues.

VIII

She has a brass bowl, a singing bowl, on the windowsill of the hospital room.

IX

It catches the light and sometimes holds it, depending on the time of day.

X

Her body. A bowl, singing.

## The Cannibal Doctors

*Dylan Blacquiere*

(for Meredith)

She gives directions with a hungry smile.  
Her words are silken, reassuring,  
but her teeth still drip the hours, minutes, seconds,  
the remnants of the meal just past. And they don't hide  
the days still caught between  
her sharpened canines, her worn-down molar teeth.

She eats time with all the rest of them. And when  
we see her talk, she wears her eyes  
ringed black with the mark of three nights  
spent awake, on call, and in the trenches, feeding.  
We thank her for her guidance, then walk faster  
to outrun the feeding-frenzy there beneath  
the unfilled seconds we spend standing by her side.

It's just her eyes -  
her tired, restless eyes that moan for sleep  
that hint at who she was before she started eating hours.  
They give the true directions, better than  
the well-meant counsel that she gives to passers-by.

Behind us  
are the suburbs of an ignorant, idiot time  
where she once lived,  
where all our empty moments were our own.

But forward – there the cannibal doctors wait  
like her, to steal our seasons, snatch the finite years  
and feed on every passing day and night.

Poet and artist Anne Simpson was the Medical Humanities Artist-in-Residence for the Fall of 2004. Among her goals and accomplishments Anne organized a weekly session on poetry and short stories. Dylan Blacquiere participated in these workshops, writing the poem *Cannibal Doctors* as well as many others.

# Congratulations to the Graduating Class



**Your #1 Analgesic Choice**



South-East  
Regional Health Authority  
Régie régionale de la santé  
Sud-Est

**Moncton  
New Brunswick**

The Moncton Hospital is a 400 bed teaching hospital centrally located in the Maritimes. Referral population includes Eastern New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and North-Western Nova Scotia. The city, with adjoining municipalities, has a population of more than 115,000 and was ranked as one of the best Canadian cities for quality of community life. There is easy access to warm water beaches of the Northumberland Strait, and also the scenic Bay of Fundy area. Excellent availability of educational opportunities, cultural events and recreational activities in the immediate area.

The commitment of our staff to quality of care and compassion has made us into a hospital that Maclean's magazine has twice ranked as one of the best places in Canada for health care. In 2003 we were placed in the Maclean's list of the top 100 employers in Canada.

We have an on-going need of family physicians, and continue to recruit medical and surgical specialists: anesthesia, cardiology, gastroenterology, respirology, and urology.

For career opportunities and further information, contact:  
Dr. Peter Docherty, Chief of Staff, 135 MacBeath Ave., Moncton NB E1C 6Z8,  
Tel 506 857-5532, Fax 506 857-5545, Email [pedocher@sehcc.health.nb.ca](mailto:pedocher@sehcc.health.nb.ca)

*eDMJ.ca*

Dalhousie Medical Journal Online Edition

The Dalhousie Medical Journal was created by the medical students of Dalhousie University in 1957. Its purpose was to promote an interest in medical research among medical students of Atlantic Canada.

Over the years, it has evolved into much more than a scientific journal.

Visit us online at [www.edmj.ca](http://www.edmj.ca), and look into the future of the DMJ...



# Come to Physician - Friendly New Brunswick

## Venez exercer au Nouveau-Brunswick, province conviviale pour les médecins

### In New Brunswick you will find:

- positions for family practitioners and specialists;
- location grants for physicians who establish a practice in hard to recruit areas;
- opportunities to be at the forefront of health care innovations;
- opportunities to work as part of a multidisciplinary team;
- choices of urban or rural practice;
- a relaxed lifestyle and recreational activities for all seasons;
- opportunities to live and work in both official languages;
- excellent public education with programs available in English, French and French Immersion; and
- French and English post-secondary education programs.

*Quality practice and quality lifestyle are waiting for you!*

### Le Nouveau-Brunswick vous offre :

- des postes de médecins de famille et de spécialistes;
- des subventions d'emplacement pour les médecins qui acceptent de s'établir dans les régions où le recrutement est difficile;
- des possibilités de travailler avec des programmes innovateurs en matière de santé;
- des possibilités de travailler au sein d'une équipe multidisciplinaire;
- le choix de travailler en milieu rural ou urbain;
- un mode de vie détendu et des activités récréatives pour les quatre saisons;
- le choix de travailler et de vivre dans les deux langues officielles;
- un excellent réseau d'écoles publiques comprenant des programmes en anglais, en français et en immersion française; et
- des programmes d'études post-secondaires en français et en anglais.

*L'exercice d'une médecine de qualité et un mode de vie agréable... Voilà ce qui vous attend !*

For further information contact/Pour de plus amples renseignements, communiquez avec :

**Physician Resource Advisor/Conseillère en ressources médicales**

lyne.st-pierre-ellis@gnb.ca

Tel/Tél. : (506) 453-8388

Fax/Télécopieur : (506) 444-5236

**New  
Nouveau  Brunswick**

**Health and Wellness/Santé et Mieux-être**