

Obituary: P. Latelet, February 11–21, 2006

P. Latelet of the peripheral circulation died of natural causes at the age of ten days. Born in the bone marrow, she is survived by her great-grandparent, Pluri “Potent” Stemcil. She is predeceased by her parent M. Ega Karyocyte, who was consumed by a mononuclear phagocyte after she gave birth to P. Latelet and her siblings. The product of an endomitotic division, P. Latelet was one of a set of octuplets. She is remembered fondly by her five surviving siblings, each of whom is exhibiting signs of senility, including shrinking size and loss of functional capacity. She was predeceased by her brother, who was activated by collagen and subsequently lost his identity when his body coalesced with those of others in the same primary haemostatic plug. Her sister was killed at the age of three days by the combined forces of an IgG antibody and macrophages, presumably in the spleen, during the ITP uprising.

During her life, P. Latelet lived both in the circula-

tion and sequestered in the spleen. Like her siblings, she was anucleate and infertile. She formed an irreversible bond to aspirin, which inhibited COX-1 and rendered her unable to produce thromboxane-A2. As a result, she was unable to participate in aggregations with other platelets when invited by a platelet secreting ADP, serotonin, thromboxane-A2 or another endogenous aggregating agent. This limitation did not impair P. Latelet’s ability to circulate freely and probably contributed to her long life.

By request, there will be no memorial service. Catabolism has already occurred. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations in memory of P. Latelet to support research into the cause of platelet death or a charity of your choice.

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Knit two, purl two: My therapeutic choice

Homemade Cookie Monster sweaters, red striped mittens, those warm wool socks and the unforgettable sound of metal needles click-clicking away on that old brown couch; these images are fragmented yet remain happily in my mind as memories of my childhood. At the time, I remember knitting seemed so abstract and old fashioned; and for those boys and girls who have never held a pair of bamboo needles, perhaps it still does. Knitting, however, has become part of my adulthood and I would like to share my thoughts with you about being a knitter and how, I believe, the practice of pharmacy and the tradition of knitting are not as different as they might first appear to be.

Knitting is a learned skill set which changes and grows so long as the knitter is willing to increase her knowledge of the craft. I started knitting when I was twenty-one and I am sure I will continue to polish my skills, and my needles, until my hands are no longer able. I started knitting just to see if I could. Upon first glance, the quick movements, the dexterity that is required and the skeins of yarn that roll along the floor may seem slightly overwhelming. The common questions arise: Can you show me again how to cast on? How do you know

when to increase a stitch? How do you decrease every other row? When do you cast off and start anew? I was amazed at the sweaters and shawls, hats and socks that my friends were able to produce with their own hands. I wanted to try, to give it a proverbial shot, but admit now that I had a veiled fear of embarrassing myself and ending up with a knot of wool at the end of my first attempt.

To my unexpected and welcomed surprise, knitting moved from a task-oriented “knit two, purl two” internal monologue into a relaxing, exciting and often challenging pastime. It is a rewarding experience to have the opportunity to make something with my own hands and I feel lucky that my mother was patient enough to walk me through the steps. Recently, though, I have come to acknowledge a deeper understanding. I knit not only for the enjoyment of it, but I knit for my health. Knitting is more than a hobby; it is a way of being with my self. It is, in fact, a meditation.

Pharmacy, perhaps, is not a meditation, but more a thoughtful process that also requires skill, patience and accuracy. It too is a learned skill set which evolves over time with the emergence of new products, practices and continuing education by and from the field itself. Al-