

## **Massey Grand Rounds Ode March 20, 2013**

In a cloistered room at Massey and by video to NOSM  
With a spirit that's the opposite of what's known as playing possum  
Comes an annual event where thoughtful intellect abounds  
And gels around a theme – it's Massey's very own Grand Rounds.

This year the theme's our healthcare system – can it be sustained?  
What needs to change or just improve and what can be maintained -  
Reorienting services, staff to be retrained  
Despite demand and politics, costs to be restrained.

JFs Doherty and York called us to order - after a fashion  
Master Fraser and Dr. Angel both welcomed us with passion.  
What followed next was greetings from one of two med school deans  
Leading into lofty healthcare issues and the counting of the beans.

The first plenary was intro'd by JFs Asian and Cyrillic  
Tackling healthcare realpolitik as opposed to the idyllic.  
Chaired ably by Catherine Zahn, a top leader if 'ere there was  
And believe me I'm not saying that just 'cause she is my boss.

Always forceful, never tactless, former red-head Michael Rachlis  
Disputing dogma, taking on healthcare canards  
With his intellect and gumption, he shattered each assumption  
And left our glass-half-empty viewpoints all in shards.

Will Falk spoke of matters fiscal and a dance that has five steps  
Innovation can be a tonic, and not the kind that's made by Schweppes;  
Cut unit costs or units is one way proposed by Falk  
But who among us will have the stones to bravely walk this talk?

Wendy Levinson, Chair of Medicine, spoke of how we choose and think  
My mind wandered to ponder the subject of just why most Jews don't drink (but I  
digress).  
She admonished us to choose with care and think not once but twice  
I wish that in my teenage years I'd heeded her advice.

The next group was introduced by JFs Wang and Mosa  
This was a real bonanza, as they say on the Ponderosa.  
There's nothing plain about Abraham, who moderated with panache  
She's a thinker and a writer who is measured, never rash.

Siobhan Nelson, Dean of Nursing, wondered exactly who's in charge  
Are we leading or just watching, knitting like Madame Defarge  
How will we know when things are better, when we reach our destination  
And who will be the doula for this elephantine gestation?

Will Falk returned with what he's learned as a Rotman adjunct prof  
While we stand in our shadowed quadrangle and at Prosperity Inc. we scoff

The final view came shining through by Dr. Adalsteinn Brown,  
Head of IHPME at U of T and scholar of renown.  
His words left me quite hopeful for a system we can treasure  
As long as we remember that to value we must measure.

(And just a reminder that Measure for Measure opens at Stratford May 29, directed by  
Martha Henry and featuring Tom Rooney, Geraint Wyn Davies and Stephen Ouimette;  
tickets are on sale now)

In Yiddish it's called narrishkeit, this silly kind of rhyme  
But sitting on these hemorrhoidal chairs, it helps to pass the time.  
Four hours of talks does tend to leave my eyes a little glassy  
But it's worth it for the fine brain food that is Grand Rounds at Massey.

David S. Goldbloom, MD, FRCPC