Section Editor
Michael H. Brooke, MD

Poems

Arthur Ginsberg, MD

Address correspondence and
reprint requests to Dr. Arthur
Ginsberg, 10740 Meridian Ave.
N., Suite 107, Seattle, WA
98133
arthurginsberg@msn.com

BASELINE OF THE SOUL

The brain men have convened in San Diego,
wunderkindt from venerable ivory towers,
who perform
on Powerpoint when the lights go dim.
Western blots, schematics
of programmed cell death, little proteins
with names like *Caspase*, *Bax* and *Bim*
flash across the screen, enough
to make a neocortex blush
with the intimacy of it all, as if
the smartest really believe
they will get to the bottom of our heads
with knockout mice and missense nucleotides,
putting their probes into the most secret
corners of our delight, enraptured
by nomenclature, obsessed
with undressing mystery's manikin
down to her wire and linen.

No wonder I flinch at coffee break
when these bow-tied voyeurs partake
of petite sandwiches and savories,
then spec out name tags
before pontification.
Creation draws her divine cloak tighter
with each yelp of the onion skin,
every probe and assay, until
the pilgrimage collapses into itself,
and the baseline of the soul remains
vibrating like a shadow on snow,
indivisible as absolute zero.

CROSSING OVER

In her white paddock
the woman dreams a mare,
flanks churning
to stay afloat. Unaware
the distance is too great.
Ten to twenty knots
on the inland waves
but a hard wind
fractures the surface
everyday. Some shining water
streaming in rivulets
across her back
lathered like a face,
and the withers bunched
in one surge
beneath all the swift torrents
of felicity and faith,
her mane fanned
like a wedding train
for steerage,
and overhead
the relentless sun,
insolent
to the bit,
bulging eyes, frothing lips,
the mallard she passes
smoldering like an emerald
around the water's neck
that seals now
in quiet lap
this struggle
under tungsten lamps,
the monitor's
vicious hum that marks
the end of her run
in a ripple.

Neurology[®]

Poems

Arthur Ginsberg

Neurology 2008;70;1646

DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000310969.51547.7d

This information is current as of April 28, 2008

Updated Information & Services

including high resolution figures, can be found at:
<http://n.neurology.org/content/70/18/1646.full>

Permissions & Licensing

Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions

Reprints

Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
<http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise>

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright . All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.