

## FROM THE INSIDE



# Her ICU bed

Han Yan<sup>1\*</sup>  and Keegan Guidolin<sup>2</sup>

© 2018 Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature and ESICM

A blue-eyed girl of twenty and one  
Struck in the femur and the head.  
This tragic trauma, for one so young,  
Kept her sedated in an ICU bed.

Her pupils were big and slow to react,  
Her scalp was pale, much it had bled.  
Mom asked to keep all hope intact.  
Decisions made by the ICU bed.

We wheeled her into the sterile room,  
Many outside were waiting with dread.  
Catheters, wires, and lines were strewn,  
As she lifted off the ICU bed.

The skull was opened, the brain relaxed,  
The skin brought together with surgical thread.  
Was her brain now less compact?  
As she returned to the ICU bed.

Day after day we measure her pupils.  
She's not quite here, not quite brain dead.  
Withdrawing care—they give no approval.  
Weeks now she's laid in this ICU bed.

Her family is hopeful, will not let go.  
Tube helps her breathe, tube keeps her fed,  
Bugs in lungs, and none of us know  
When she will leave her ICU bed.

A fixed-eyed girl of twenty and one,  
“It's not her time,” everyone said.  
A full month since the hit-and-run,  
We gave her a life, in an ICU bed.

### Author details

<sup>1</sup> Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, 399 Bathurst St, Toronto, ON M5T 2S8, Canada. <sup>2</sup> Division of General Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.

### Compliance with ethical standards

### Conflicts of interest

The authors report no conflict of interest

Received: 31 August 2018 Accepted: 6 September 2018  
Published online: 10 September 2018

\*Correspondence: han.yan@post.harvard.edu

<sup>1</sup> Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, 399 Bathurst St, Toronto, ON M5T 2S8, Canada

Full author information is available at the end of the article