

## CLOSING REMARKS – TAMKIN

We have all had a very full and, I hope you will agree, exciting and thought-provoking day. I hope we have all learned something that will broaden and rich our lives not only professionally, but personally as well. In closing, I would like to briefly share two more little writings that I think capture the essence of what this symposium has been about.

Miroslav Holub is a Czech physician, immunologist, and poet who was intimately involved in his country's struggle to free itself from Communism. As part of a long poem, "Although," he wrote the following: SLIDE

Although we need medicine to give us vitamin C, prescribe hypertension therapy, and wage war against cancer, medicine too needs something. Perhaps, as Holub suggests, what it needs is poetry, so that when our patients are touched by the terror and emptiness of suffering, illness, and death, we can offer them something that truly is a sword and a shield.

As Pablo Neruda, the Chilean Nobel Laureate, reminds us: SLIDE

Poetry, literature, and the arts can nurture and feed the souls of our patients, and our souls as well.

I would like to thank a great number of people for making this conference possible:

First I would like to thank our outstanding speakers, Dr. Charon, Dr. Friedman, and Dr. Schneiderman, for their wisdom, outside-the-box thinking, and humor. I would like to thank Dr. and Mrs. Tamkin for making this symposium possible. I would like to thank Dr. Michael Prislín, our Dean of Students, for the idea for this conference; and Dean Alberto Manetta, for having the courage to support this idea. I would also like to thank the Office of Curricular Affairs faculty, Drs. Lloyd Rucker, Desiree Lie, and Elizabeth Morrison, for their support and creative advice; and my colleague Dr. Pam Schaff from USC for her invaluable encouragement and friendship, and for introducing me to Dr. Charon. I would like to thank Dr. Gerald Roth, Dean of the Office of Continuing Medical Education, for showing me how to fill out all the CME forms; and the CME coordinator Elena Gilliam for never panicking, following through on every suggestion, anticipating every problem, and with the able help of the newly arrived Bonnie, ensuring that this conference ran smoothly. Finally, I would like to thank all of you, the participants at this conference, who took the risk of taking time from your very busy lives to spend a day thinking about the art of medicine.