60 Years in medicine: Looking Back and looking forward

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Professor Emeritus
Pre-Med 1955-58
Med 1958-63
Family Practice 1963-65
Residency 1965-1969
Neurologist 1969-2008
Emeritus Prof. 2008-

63 years of Medicine

When was the Golden Age?
No ethics
No medical economics
No teaching of sexuality
Little attention to communication skills
Little teaching of clinical skills/techniques
Clinical training in major hospital
No community experience
No training for office practice
No emphasis on collaboration
No discussion of professionalism
Many aspects taken for granted
Family practice

- Pre-Medicare
- Solo practice
- 80-90 hr weeks
- Always on call
- Episodic CME

- Fully engaged in hospital care
- Consultants available within the hour, or days
Hospital Care

- Long length of stay
- Small emergency room
- No waiting
- Small administration

- No ICU
- No coronary care
- No dialysis
- No cancer unit
- No palliative care
- No interventional radiology
• Few tests
• Few treatments
• Diagnostic specialty
• Diagnose and Adios
Changes in Medicine since 1958

- Medicare
- Advances in technology
- Advances in therapies
- The pill
- Outstanding applicants for medicine
- More women in medicine
- Adaptive medical education
- Multidisciplinary practice
- Care/testing/procedures to the community
Predictions and Hopes

• A Caution:
  – Beatles
  – Quadriphonic sound
  – BetaMax recording

• CMAJ predictions
Predictions

• Best predictor of things to come is what is happening now
  – Imaging, especially ultrasound
  – Therapies
  – Genetics
  – Stem cells
  – Microbiome
  – Artificial intelligence
  – Etc

• Some transformative changes could not be predicted
The Grey Tsunami is a good thing!
That was our goal!

• We have seen this train coming down the tracks for 40 years. Now we have to get serious:

• Predictions
  – Multidisciplinary units, clinics and practices
  – Emphasis on home care
  – Personalized wearable monitoring
  – Geriatric care services
  – Highly specialized care in hospitals
  – Hospital services moved to less expensive sites
Hopes

• Real reform of the system
• Planning begins with determinants of health
• Attention to the work life of MDs
• Attention to medical error
• Federal leadership for national programs
• National pharmacare program
• Evidence based coverage
• Medical advocacy about environmental issues and global warming (get informed first)
• Stop accepting the unacceptable (wait times, etc)
The Golden Age is now, and moving forward year by year.