ART OF MEDICINE
Going Up or Down?
Katelyn Norman, MD

Abstract
This oil painting of a crowded elevator carriage suggests our numerous shared uncertainties, risk of exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and lack of knowledge about our and others’ risk of death from COVID-19. Personal protective equipment is uncomfortable, but it’s less uncomfortable, perhaps, than knowing our safety depends so much on others’ behaviors.

Figure. The Elevator

Media
Oil on canvas, 24" x 36".
Caption
In this crowded hospital elevator, the doors have either just opened or are about to close, and the carriage is either going up or down. Occupants include patients, visitors, clinicians, and administrators who are (or are not) donning various kinds of personal protective equipment; proximity both unites and threatens them. The Elevator is a reflection on our discomfort with depending on others to express consideration and respect for our safety and with their dependence on us. We’re all in this together, but some among us have more to lose.

Katelyn Norman, MD is the chief resident of the Yale-Waterbury Internal Medicine Residency Program in Waterbury, Connecticut. She received a BFA degree in studio art and an MD degree from the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. In addition to serving as chief resident, she is also co-chair of the ethics committee at her institution.

Citation

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