

A covenant

To do the best
With what
We know
And have
To offer
With all our knowledge
And skill
To communicate
Not our biases
But
To give
Time
And space
To explain
Honestly
Sometimes painstakingly
The details
And reality
Of the disease
Of the likely course
Of treatment
Of prognosis
And possibilities
To acknowledge
The unknown
To inquire

With true interest
About the person
In the body
In the bed
Before us
To sit
In the space
Of uncertainty
To be
Present
With
Openness
As together
We seek
To understand
The impact
Of illness
On the individual
And ultimately
Know
As best as we can
What it is
To live

— Raphael Arellano Carandang, MD