The author presents the near death experiences of two patients to explore values underlying medical humanism, and utilizes a case to explore the fundamental clinical commitments of partnership.

Caring for Patients at the End of Life: Facing an Uncertain Future Together uses easily accessible clinical stories about severely ill patients and their families to help illustrate an exploration of some of the challenges and potential of end-of-life care, including: 1) the values that underlie medical humanism, 2) communication issues for clinicians, patients and families, and 3) challenging clinical and ethical issues.