

# ELEVATOR RIDE

*by Joe O'Connor*

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Picture an elevator  
since there aren't any floor numbers in any area  
you don't know what floor you got on at  
the bottom of the section of floor is called  
early onset  
the middle? area of floors is called  
normal time  
but what about this elevator is "normal"  
glancing at the top getting on area  
you see the words "late onset"

I got on at "normal time"  
I ask the operator on what floor I am getting off  
some of those floors look pretty far away  
no response is returned - seems ominous

the elevator jerks upward  
take note this is no easy ride - there will be a lot of bumps  
the doors open "at pity party"  
there seems to be a lot of crying around a Christmas tree  
then I realize this is my diagnosis date - right around Christmas  
like a modern Scrooge - I wish to see no more  
the silent operator yanks me back in

the elevator jerks upward again  
the doors open at first fall  
I find myself running with your running buddy when suddenly  
my legs tangle and down I go  
after a few stitches the operator pulls me back in

many stops go by  
second fall  
third fall  
early retirement  
support group  
and so many clinical trial stops 47 as of right now

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up the elevator continues its journey  
the doors open at "DPF Ambassador"  
this is such a fun place  
some of the sub floors you see are:  
Leadership conference  
Poetry group  
pen pals  
storming the capital  
and sooo many new friends names to count them all would be impossible  
but all of us reach out to each other and share with each other  
it is a warm feeling place  
I love to linger there

the next floor visited is called praise  
here we find that people really find value in what I do  
strangely I find myself reluctant to step out  
but with a rare smile the operator pushes me out  
and I hear so many thanks and accolades  
that my ears really echo with compliments  
still in the elevator the operator smiles as he looks on  
and then he beckons me to return

upward the elevator rises  
the next floor is named chorus  
on this floor  
you are invited join even if "you cant carry a tune in a bag"  
a fun floor  
one I hope to continue to visit  
I notice several sub -floors arranged by visit dates  
good - it looks like many visits  
but once the operator beckons for you to leave

and more floors and other stuff to come...