

On the Occasion of Debra E. Weese-Mayer, M.D. Investiture in the 1st Endowed
Chair in Pediatric Autonomic Medicine (5-29-15)

We're going to CAMP the young girl exclaimed. I am so excited there will be so much to do. I might go white water rafting or even learn the Kazoo.

It's not that kind of CAMP, her mother said softly. There will be doctors and nurses and tests new to you.

But I want to go hiking and riding and more. I want to do all the things my friends do outdoors. All of the fun things, I'm not now able to do. I want to have fun; not all gloom and doom.

I know you do sweetie, her mother quietly explained. That's why this CAMP is so special. It's a place that will help you do all those things, because they love to assist young folks just like you, do all those things that you never could do.

But what kind of CAMP has no tents and no camp fires said her daughter? No swimming or tall trees to climb? Sounds boring and dull. Why waste my time?

This CAMP is special; this CAMP is new. This CAMP was created for young people just like you. You know all those breathing and weight problems you hate. They have created special ways of treating them. Just you wait.

Wait until you meet Professor Debbie and her team. They will help you to enjoy a quality of life about which you now only can dream. You see, they are the only place there is in the world, that studies children's nervous systems autonomic. And when they are through, you will be able to overcome much of your disease so challengingly chronic.

Who is this Dr. Debbie, the little girl exclaimed. She must be some kind of wizard with special powers. How do I know that her spells will be gold? How do I know she won't turn me into a a a toad?

Oh her spells are pretty special alright, said her Mom. You see, she is a professor at the Northwestern School of Medicine and and Sorcery. In fact, she is such a

powerful and amazing wizard that they have just named her to a special chair. She is the very first to hold it. The very first one there.

In fact, today we are celebrating Professor Debbie's new place. Her chair recognizes that she has earned one of a select few spaces, along with those who have worked so long and so hard, to push the boundaries of medicine to new heights and new places.

Well, I'm sold said the girl. Let's go to this new CAMP kind of place. And let's toast to Professor Debbie for making this space; space for people like me to rediscover how wonderful life can be. Free from so many challenges due to my system autonomic. Free from so many symptoms so chronic. Thank goodness there are wizards like her you see, to make life better for young people like me.

Written with eternal love by Robert Nathan Mayer, PhD