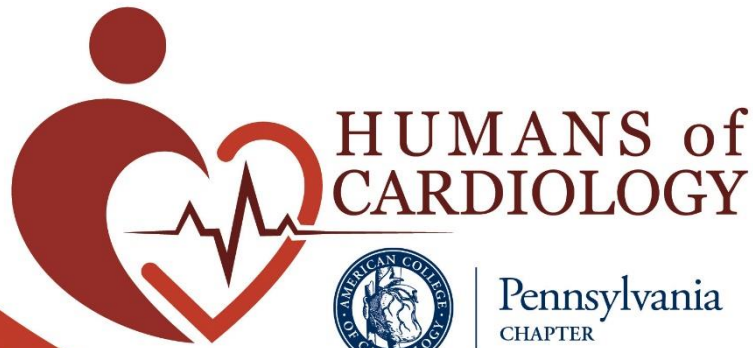


OPEN FORUM INITIATIVE



Dr. Mark Hausknecht, a cardiologist famously known for taking care of former president George H.W. Bush, was shot on his way into work. The suspect, who has since committed suicide, was reportedly upset that his mother passed away during a procedure that Dr. Hausknecht was performing.

The story has made headlines, but it has not lead to a discussion.

Last month, a patient was taken for a LHC and during the procedure she arrested. ROSC was achieved within one round and she was transferred up to the CCU. Numerous attempts were made to contact the family with no avail. At the end of the day, I heard the patient's nurse screaming, "I need the doctor in here now!" When I rushed over, I saw an angry tall man standing at the patient's door with the hospital security officer next to him. He immediately asked me what happened to his mother. As I started to speak, the patient's son made a fist and pulled back his arm and swung towards me. The security officer held back the man's arm just in time and his fist missed my face by less than a foot. The security officer attempted to calm the patient's son down, but then also demanded that I walk over to a conference room and sit with this man who just attempted to assault me. The staff around me wasn't sure how to intervene, and I didn't want to make the situation worse. So I sat in a small room with the patient's son, where I got interrupted repeatedly by him telling me that he would kill me if his mother did not get better.

I left the hospital scared, angry, and upset. I kept watching my back, but at the same time, I wanted to turn back and give that patient's son a piece of my mind. I needed to talk to someone, but I didn't know whom to tell. I wasn't sure if my experience was isolated event or this had happened to others.

Last week my friend, a resident at another hospital, was seeing a patient in clinic. The patient didn't like the news she was hearing and attacked my friend. My friend was rushed to the ER and found to have a subdural hematoma. She was discharged two days later feeling scared, angry, and upset.

These events are not isolated so lets start a discussion.

This story was submitted anonymously.