

A Door Apart **Neil H Segal**

Doors may become closed
The object was first made to
Create order, stop wind to
Make calm, divide the room
So I know what to vacuum,
Now makes noise when slammed
Creates division, with a
New order of separateness—
Remember to open the door.

NEIL H SEGAL is a medical-oncology fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He grew up in South Africa, where he earned his BSc in medical biochemistry in 1990, his MD in 1996, and his PhD in medical biochemistry in 1998, all at the University of the Witwatersrand. Segal moved to New York in 1998 and completed his residency in internal medicine at New York University Medical Center in 2005.

Editor's Note: Segal said that "when I wrote this poem, I was thinking of my childhood . . . in particular, the ideologies and devastation of Apartheid." (Ah, the power and openness of poetry! When I read his poem, it transported me back to a physics experiment I did years ago in school on the effect of air currents between our back door and front door!)