It is a special pleasure for me as a Canadian to introduce to you a fellow Canadian who is so deserving of the Sigourney Award as is Dr. Norman Doidge. I knew him first as a highly promising student who excelled in my courses on psychoanalysis at the University of Toronto where he pursued studies in ancient Greek literature and philosophy. Already his talent for creative writing and passion for ideas and arguments were evident in his winning the Pratt Prize for poetry that also won, the perhaps even greater prize, of the praise of our most eminent literary scholar and critic Prof. Northrop Frye all the while achieving equally high standing in his philosophy studies. Philosophically, Norman is an empiricist and a rationalist. He was not intrigued by the absurd. But his curiosity about psychoanalysis overcame any doubts he had about the anomaly of a philosopher teaching a full year course on Freud without the usual barrage of criticisms when Plato, Aristotle and Kant were limited to half-courses. During these years of undergraduate study and literary achievement his enduring commitment to psychoanalysis was established.

Norman soon became a valued colleague. He graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto and trained in psychiatry at Columbia while concurrently completing his training in psychoanalysis at the Columbia Institute. I am sure that many Columbia faculty members share my fond memories of Norman Doidge the dedicated and gifted student and now maturing clinician. Upon graduation he was awarded a two National Institute of Mental Health at Columbia. He established a psychoanalytic practice in Toronto while holding a University of Toronto appointment in Psychiatry as Director of the Outpatient’s Psychotherapy Clinic. A training analyst, he is a highly regarded member of our Toronto society and institute.

Norman has long since become a valued friend with whom we share many family occasions. For this reason, I am able to inform you of something that I know makes Norman especially happy and proud. Norman’s recent book did not spring full blown like Aphrodite from the brow of Zeus. Behind every accomplished author there is an encouraging muse, researcher, editor and amanuensis. She is his charming wife Karen who accompanies him this evening.