Anaesthesia, Peak Oil & the Perilous Tightrope of Complexity

One of the defining characteristics of the anaesthetist is a capacity for vigilant pessimism, it represents a large part of what we do. This is a conjunctural exercise in using this capacity for vigilant pessimism in a critical examination of the complexity of the world in which we live and practice as anaesthetists. Anticipating the hazards confronting the global economy, its parent company the natural world and planning a response should events turn critical.

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What can anaesthetists do in the face of these risks?

• We are in the luck and bad hands (not some middle rank in the business or government).
• Anaesthetists have been trained in the value of efficiency
• Anaesthesia training
• Delirium as a model of critical events
• Peacetime anaesthesia
• anaesthesia

References
17. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liebig%27s_law_of_the_minimum