ODE TO THE OPIOID by Andrea Michelle Lauffer, MD

A friend or a foe Despised and cherished by some How should I see you?

One of your greatest gifts Easing release of the soul The dying need you

Paralyzing pain Agony smothering life You comfort the maimed

Into the wrong hands Unveiling your lethal side You become toxic A poisonous bloom Smell of a substance affair You can ruin life

In the human eyes Creating pinpoint pupils You blindside the weak

Our relationship Contentious yet much needed We have to make peace In my solemn vow Taming your widespread presence I will do no harm

Giving you to those Whose nociceptors need soothed I will dispense you

Withholding you back When you will harm and not help I will dismiss you

Owing it to them Those generations to come Your crisis must cease

