

**POETRY/FICTION**

Poems

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**BONNIE RAINGRUBER**

Department of Hematology and Oncology, University of California Davis Medical School, Davis, California

**CANCER KISSES**

An excoriated butterfly kisses my cheek.  
Pain testifies to the changes I am.  
Scars punctuate and demarcate  
transitions that take me.

A dead moth dissolves, specimened  
old as wallpaper faded two centuries  
past. Yellow, tan, blanched, I am aged  
skin, translucent and turned in on myself.

My countenance twists cold,  
a blue gum tree on the coast,  
blown rough by adversity.  
I am textured sandpaper.

My stomach laps my backbone.  
Many muscles long for the structure  
a ball and socket bring. Listless,  
I contemplate energy's memory.