

Lauren Lynch (SKMC)

masking hope

the thing about hope is
it also grows exponentially
a fact she knew well
15 years of treating those
just like him

but this time was different
wrapped around her ears
covering the bridge of her nose
lie the biggest obstacle
to her strongest weapon
she had never needed it more
or wanted it less

his lungs were drowning
his kidneys clinging by a thread
his heart was exhausted
he was dying
he was sure of it

a wave of guilt washed over him
dying wasn't easy
becoming a source
of The Virus
was worse
he pictured the ripple effect
and shattered

pleading with God
don't let death
be his legacy
he removed his mask
to make way for the tube

her eyes wrinkled
desperately she prayed
he could recognize
the forgiveness
and hope
in the smile
hidden behind her mask

Delaware Health
Sciences Alliance