

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

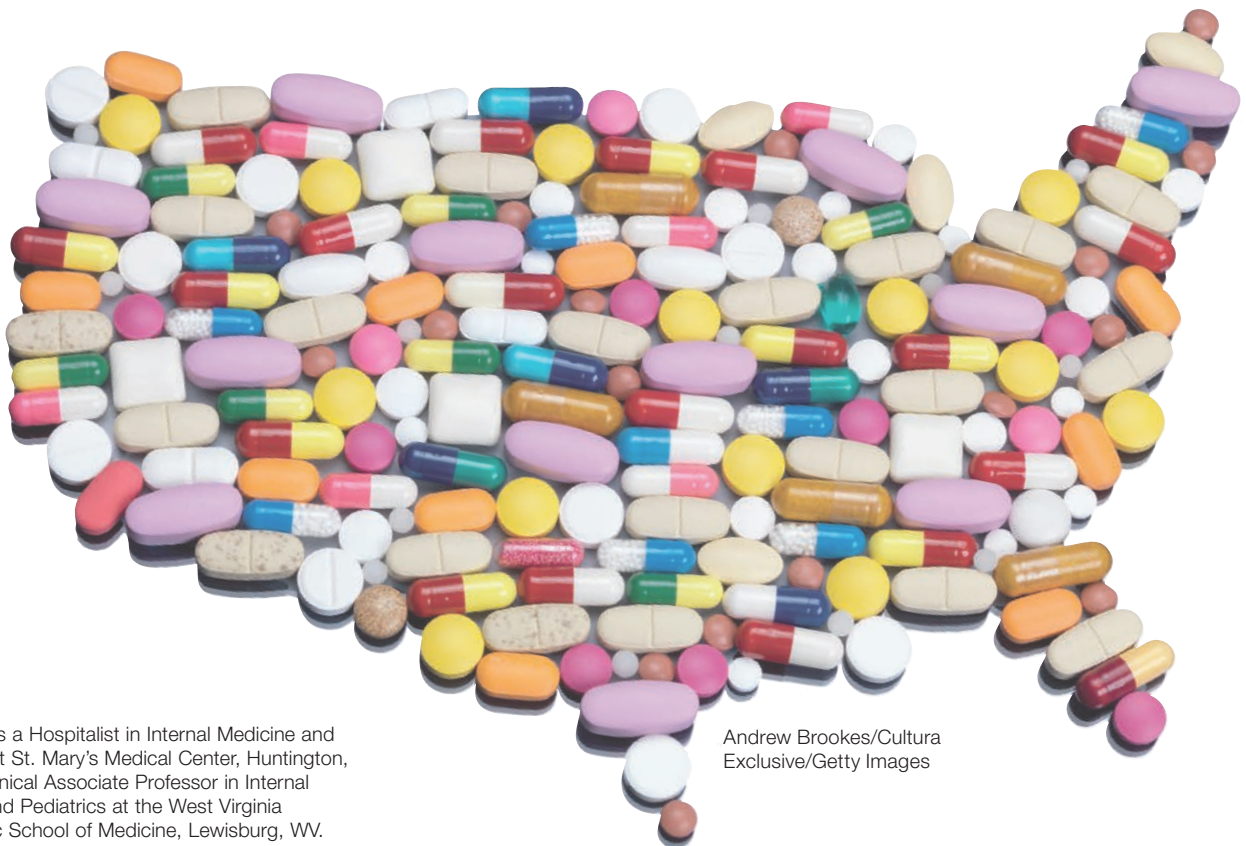
Our relationship
Contentious yet much needed
We have to make peace

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



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