In loving memory…

BY MRINAL M. PATNAIK, M.D.

As I see another light fade in front of me,
Anger and sadness confront my soul,
Why is there so much suffering in humanity,
Why does leukemia continue to take a heavy toll,

When you have no control over life and death,
The only elixir for your weary soul …
Is the gratitude expressed from the family,
… “Doctor you did everything in your control,”

How elusive this very control is,
… weighs heavily on my mind,
I hope and pray every single day,
That we leave no one behind,

For human dignity and compassion my heart abounds,
For comfort and peace my prayers resound,
As our patients’ courage and endurance continue to astound,
For being in this profession my gratitude is nothing but profound.

In loving honor and memory …

Mrinal Patnaik is a leukemia specialist at the Mayo Clinic.

Note: In a letter accompanying this submission, Dr. Patnaik wrote, “We have had a fair number of young patients with leukemia pass away recently, and it has been simply heartbreaking.”