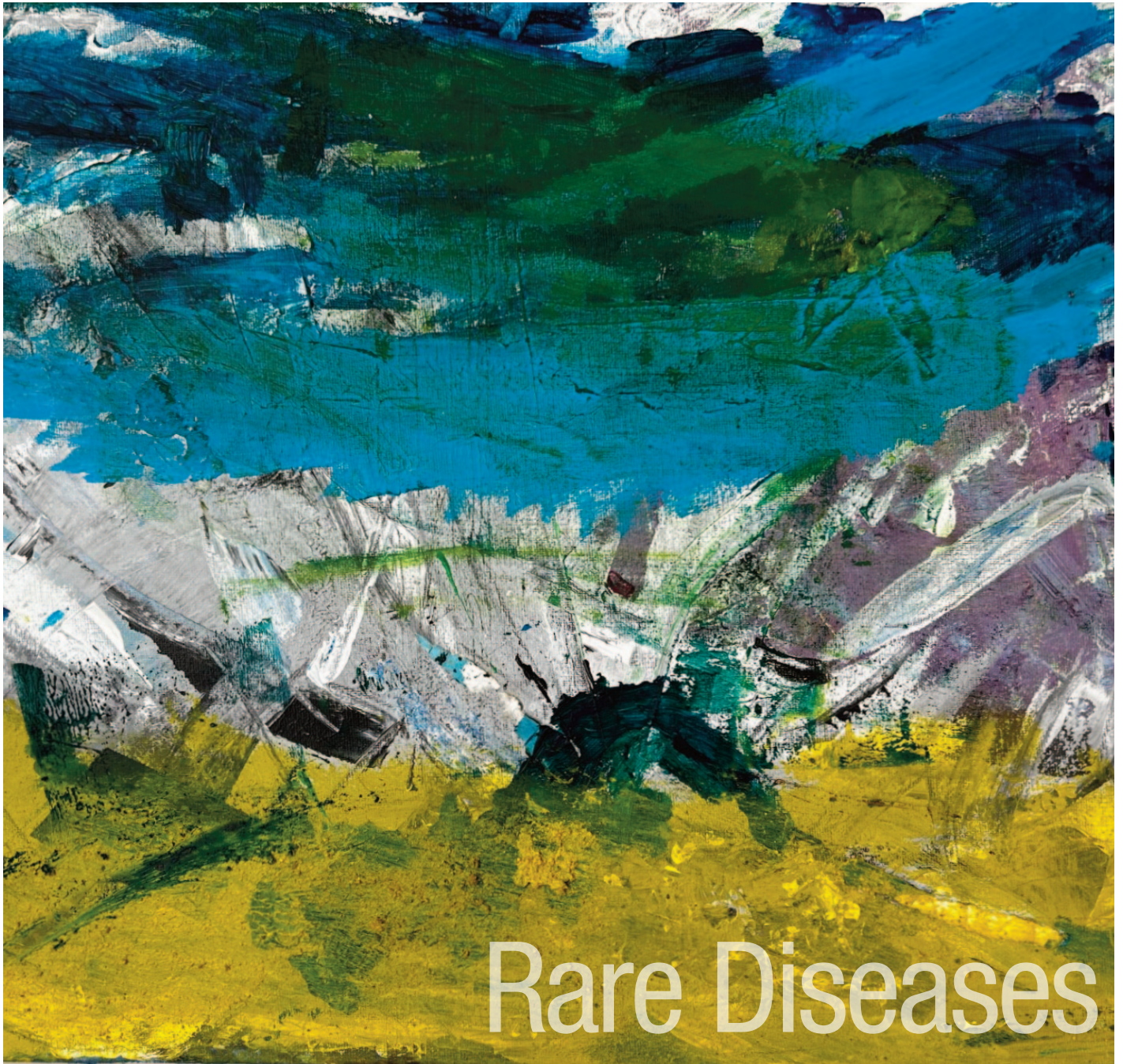


Medical Writing



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- Dealing with animal death in the lab
- Could AI play a role in treating HIV/AIDS?

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About Nora Patterson, our cover artist



A few months ago, the Guest Editors of this issue of *Medical Writing* posted a call for young artists with rare diseases or their siblings to submit artwork to be considered for the cover. We are delighted to present the work of 17-year-old Nora Patterson of Reston, Virginia. On the cover, you will see her painting, “The Beach”. On this page, you will also see another textile work that she created.

Nora has juvenile Batten disease (also referred to as CLN3 disease), a neurodegenerative condition that leads to blindness and cognitive decline, among other issues. Her earliest symptom was diminished vision at 7 years old. By the age of 14, only the perception of light remained for her. Because of her vision loss, teachers at her school assist her as needed in an art class for both high-needs and traditional students. When she works with clay, she is able to work quite independently.

“When Nora works with paint, she understands the basic orientation of the canvas and is able to apply the color she requests on the general area that aligns with her concept for the piece,” according to her father, James Patterson. The yellow paint at the bottom of her work has sand in it, so it has a tactile element to it when it dries.

“Nora has always been interested in arts and crafts,” her father wrote. “Today, her greatest joy in the world is making art.”