



## Ode to Vaccines

“We only survive and thrive these days thanks to vaccination,” writes health and science journalist Chloé Pinheiro.

Vaccines are life-saving tools. Getting vaccinated makes you less likely to get sick from any disease you’re vaccinated against, and it decreases the chance of death or serious illness if you do get sick. When recommended vaccines are taken by enough people, they can help stop diseases from spreading across entire populations. Virginia.

*Image by Irina Werning. Argentina.*

## Share Your Voice

**Prompt:** Imagine a world without barriers to vaccination: no shortages, no high costs, no misinformation. What would be possible in that future? (Try starting, “Thanks to vaccines, I / we \_\_\_\_.”)



Read the Story

[HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org](https://HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org)



Share Your Card

[SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image](https://SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image)



KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of Arts and Sciences



Pulitzer Center





## Ode to Science Beyond Borders

Journalists at *Science Magazine* report that only about 10% of the world's most well-known scientists work outside of the United States and Western Europe. The good news? Scientists around the world are raising their voices to demand resources and recognition.

In this photo, children in a small village in Nigeria raise their hands when asked how many of them want to be doctors or nurses.

*Image by Andrew Esiebo. Nigeria.*

## Share Your Voice

**Prompt:** Dream a world in which all people benefit from innovations in health science, and get recognition for their contributions. (Try starting, “The language of science is \_\_\_\_” or “The country of science is \_\_\_\_.” Or, answer this question expansively: Who belongs in health science?)



Read the Story

[HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org](https://HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org)



Share Your Card

[SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image](https://SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image)



KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of Arts and Sciences



Pulitzer Center





## Ode to Healthy Black Futures

Bridging the health access gap requires medical professionals to unlearn racist myths that were accepted in the scientific community for generations. It also requires systems, policies, and a culture that make the resources necessary to lead a healthy life accessible to all people.

In this photo, best friend Page Johnson speaks to Tonithia Reid's stomach during an Afrocentric blessing ceremony in Reid's apartment in Alexandria, Virginia. *Image by Karen Kasmauski. United States.*

### Share Your Voice

**Prompt:** What needs to change in order for Black people and communities to thrive? What looks, sounds, and feels different in a healthy future that recognizes and supports the needs of Black people and communities of color?



Read the Story

[HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org](https://HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org)



Share Your Card

[SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image](https://SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image)



KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of Arts and Sciences









## Ode to the Science of Being

“Trans, queer, and nonbinary people are a natural part of the beautiful variety and diversity of human existence. That is the real scientific truth.” –Florence Ashley and Simón(e) D. Sun, health science and biology researchers

This photo shows Tam, a 23-year-old nonbinary dancer from Bolivia, returning home for the first time since transitioning while living in Argentina.. *Image by Irina Werning. Bolivia, 2022.*

### Share Your Voice

**Prompt:** Celebrate the “beautiful variety and diversity of human existence.” (Try starting: “Each individual is a mosaic of \_\_\_\_.”)



Read the Story

[HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org](https://HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org)



Share Your Card

[SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image](https://SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image)



KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of Arts and Sciences





## Ode to Healthy Food Futures

The United Nations recognizes access to healthy food as a fundamental human right. How can science contribute to building a healthy food future?

Scientists in Uganda have grown a “super banana” that has 30 times the amount of provitamin A found in other local bananas. Vitamin A deficiency affects about 190 million preschool-age children, and this banana could save many lives.

*Image by Agostino Petroni. Uganda, 2022.*

### Share Your Voice

Prompt: What does a healthy food future look like?

Try starting, “I want to fill the world’s plate with \_\_\_\_.” Or, write to the researchers who engineered this banana, the people who will benefit, or the banana itself! Try starting, “I know \_\_\_\_,” “I wonder \_\_\_\_,” or “I hope \_\_\_\_.”



Read the Story

[HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org](https://HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org)



Share Your Card

[SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image](https://SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image)



KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of Arts and Sciences







## Ode to Safe Pregnancy

The vast majority of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. More than 8 in 10 pregnancy-related deaths in the United States could have been prevented, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In this photo, midwife Marsha Jackson holds 6-week-old Rose Poosz—daughter of Raynesha Sharpe—during a well-baby check in Alexandria, Virginia.

*Image by Karen Kasmauski. United States.*

## Share Your Voice

Prompt: What do people need to thrive before, during, and after childbirth? Write your hopes and demands for pregnant people and new parents. (Try starting: “You deserve \_\_\_\_\_,” “We will work to make sure you have \_\_\_\_\_,” or “I dream for you freedom from \_\_\_\_\_.”)



Read the Story

[HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org](https://HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org)



Share Your Card

[SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image](https://SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image)



KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of Arts and Sciences







## Ode to Recognition

Illnesses that have many symptoms, some of which are hard to see and measure, can be difficult to diagnose. Long COVID is one such illness. Without a formal diagnosis, people with long COVID struggle to access treatment and disability benefits.

In this photo, Mayra Mora looks at photos from before her COVID-19 infection three years ago. Now, she can't leave home to hang out with her friends on the weekends without feeling exhausted the next day. *Image by Quetzalli Blanco. Mexico, 2023.*

### Share Your Voice

**Prompt:** Use your voice to recognize people with long COVID, and others who have chronic and invisible illnesses. \_\_\_\_.”



Read the Story

[HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org](https://HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org)



Share Your Card

[SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image](https://SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image)



KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of Arts and Sciences





## Ode to Ending Period Poverty

According to the World Bank, at least 500 million women and girls globally lack adequate facilities for menstrual hygiene.

The people in this photo are young women in Kashmir, who burst into laughter when the conversation turns to menstruation. As in many parts of the world, people in Kashmir have their own beliefs and taboos when it comes to menstruation.

*Image by Shefali Rafiq. India, 2022.*

### Share Your Voice

**Prompt:** Respond to the photo. Want help getting started? Try writing to the people in the photo, starting with “I know \_\_\_\_\_,” “I wonder \_\_\_\_\_,” or “I hope \_\_\_\_\_.”



Read the Story

[HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org](https://HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org)



Share Your Card

[SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image](https://SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image)



KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of Arts and Sciences







ATLANTIC MEDICAL  
CLINIC  
12001 PRINCE OF WELLS  
L2001 PRINCE OF WELLS

teenVOGUE

## Ode to Reproductive Rights

In the years since her abortion, Makayla Montoya Frazier has become well-versed in reproductive justice. “I see all the gaps that exist,” Montoya Frazier says of the lack of access to reproductive care and information that she witnesses daily.

When people come to her for help, she makes sure they feel supported, free of shame. If they’re nervous, she tells all of these girls and women the same thing. “I will not let you go through this by yourself.”

*Image by Sarah Karlan. United States, 2022.*

### Share Your Voice

**Prompt:** Respond to the story. Want help getting started? Try writing to the person in the photo, starting with “I know \_\_\_\_\_,” “I wonder \_\_\_\_\_,” or “I hope \_\_\_\_\_.”



Read the Story

[HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org](https://HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org)



Share Your Card

[SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image](https://SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image)



KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of Arts and Sciences





## Ode to Uncertainty

All good science starts with asking questions. In fact, science almost never offers absolute certainty.

“Diligent scientists think carefully about this,” writes Dr. Seema Yasmin. “They swim around in uncertainty, semicomfortable that the experiments they run and the data they produce inch us closer to some version of the truth—a truth that can be disproved at any time.”

*Image by Andrew Esiebo. Nigeria.*

## Share Your Voice

**Prompt:** Write your questions and wonderings about health and science. What is the beauty and challenge of scientific uncertainty?



Read the Story

[HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org](https://HealthyFutures.PoetsForScience.org)



Share Your Card

[SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image](https://SparkPoems.com/ode-to-healthy-futures/share-your-image)



KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
Wick Poetry Center  
College of Arts and Sciences

 Pulitzer Center