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Poetry and Epidemiology

INVOCATION FOR A METHODS CLASS

Tradition fails: which muse shall I invoke?
 Is poetry at odds with this, our field?
 Must we empiricists our songs revoke?
 But hear: need faith in intuition yield?
 For mechanism is a deadly curse
 Anathema to deeper rumination
 But inspiration underlined with verse
 Brings intuition in coordination.
 While blind statistics verge upon uncouth,
 A synergy of brains both right and left,
 Ensures that we steer closer to the truth
 With insights new, our thesis bright and deft:
 A partnership of qual' and quant' illuminates the dark;
 We bless the union, two are one: at last, a muse to hark.

—Daniel Westreich