

APPEAL, IN THREE DOWNS

Never go “no huddle” against eleven (hundred or thousand)
hungry myocytes.
You can't know the splay of the land.

John once turned off his hearing aids when I got to the
“You MUST stop smoking!”
Only “Husky” vs Stihl, as worthiest, moved the chains.

Roger waited two hours (after driving five) to be asked, “Why are you here?”
We shared anger before finding hope.

Joan wondered when I, as others, would demand she lose weight; I did.
Her kindness led me to know: “once too alluring, now safe in size.”

Watch defensive signals. They are the keys to the play, the game, the life,
the possibility of order restored.

—Ronald M. Legum, M.D.

Ronald M. Legum is a practicing cardiologist who resides in coastal Maine. This poem was inspired by several patient interactions, lending some credence to the time-honored dictum: “Listen to the patient, he (or she) is trying to tell you what is the matter.”