

## Not Mine

Your parchment skin and liver spots

Thick chest beneath the gown, big belly

Labored shallow breath, dry lips. Picc line

You are not my mirror

My telomeres lengthen reflexively toward your shortened life

Cigarettes\* COPD

Divorce\*CHF

Dunkin\*Diabetes

Your fate is not mine.

We do have a choice, in how we live,

if not how we die.