

G's

I think that I shall never see
A protein lovelier than a G.
Gs, Gi, transducin too
Each one it seems, has much to do.

Ef tu and tubulin
Are G proteins as well.
As genes for new Gees are fished out,
The list indeed does swell.

G proteins give us IP3
And also cyclic A.
They turn off cyclase rather well,
And take cyclic G away.

Several ion channels may,
By G proteins be gated.
It looks like many leukocytes
Through Gees are activated.

Some Gees act as oncogenes,
Controlling how cells grow.
Others manage how cell proteins
Do shuttle to and fro.

Gees even act as matchmakers
For copulating yeast.
Others control the process how
From cells, things are released.

It seems that there is nothing that
G proteins cannot do.
Come up with a new function and
We'll find the G for you.

So don't deprecate G proteins or
You'll get me quite annoyed.
Since another function of them is
To keep us, happily, employed.

Mark M. Rasenick
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With apologies to Joyce Kilmer
[His parents should have apologized
to him for that first name]