NEWS AND RESOURCES:

Alcoholism Through a Doctor’s Eyes
Dr. Barron Lerner, professor in the Divisions of Medical Ethics, Medical Humanities and General Internal Medicine at NYULMC, discusses the play “Bill W. and Dr. Bob,” about the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous: “Although it did not specifically term alcoholism a disease, A.A. popularized this notion. Bill had heard this language from his doctor. Alcoholism, he explains during the play, is like tuberculosis. Later on, he calls his condition an ‘alcohol allergy.’... Of course, calling something a disease did not automatically eliminate the entrenched cultural beliefs about the condition.”
http://nyti.ms/1eX1O4X

An Empathy Video That Asks You To Stand in Someone Else’s Shoes
“If you could stand in someone else’s shoes... Hear what they hear. See what they see. Feel what they feel. Would you treat them differently?” Those words end this very moving video produced by The Cleveland Clinic – 4 minutes that are worth watching today.

“It Is Not Wit, It Is Truth:” Transcending the Narrative Bounds of Professional and Personal Identity in Life and in Art
“Taking inspiration from the film Wit (2001), adapted from Margaret Edson’s (1999) Pulitzer Prize-winning play, this article explores the particularities of witnessing a cinematic cancer narrative juxtaposed with the author’s own cancer narrative. The analysis reveals the tenuous line between death and dying, illness and wellness, life and living and the resulting identities shaped in the process of understanding both from a personal and professional lens. By framing these representations of illness experience within the narrative constructions of drama, time, metaphor and morality, the personal stories of intellectual knowledge converging with intimate and embodied knowing are revealed.”
http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10912-014-9272-x/fulltext.html (Also attached as PDF)

The Medical Gaze: What Do Foucault and the French Revolution Have to Do with Modern Medicine?
“Despite modern imaging techniques, a physician’s perception and application of scientific knowledge is still what is necessary to interpret that imaging with its clinical findings, in order to make an accurate diagnosis and deliver proper treatment. The clinician’s gaze is the strongest symbol of the profession, yielding the results of unseen phenomena. The gaze mediates the observation of the patient to the cognition of the doctor to understand the external and internal manifestations of disease. On an existential level, the gaze corroborates existence in a humanistic fashion never accorded to the ancient physician.”
http://in-training.org/medical-gaze-4170

“Lives There Who Loves His Pain?” Empathy, Creativity, and the Physician’s Obligation
“For a physician to whom pain was a challenge to extinguish and for a writer to whom it was a challenge to depict, this was a doubly frustrating revelation. Was it a language problem, I asked myself, or a sensibility problem? Or a mixture of both—an encounter in which language simply cannot accurately
express the intensity and nuances of pain and in which a predictably broad array of listeners bring an equally wide range of empathic sensitivities when listening to the other with pain?”


**OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Call for Papers: Arts, Social Health, and the Military**

*Arts & Health* seeks research or policy-based papers “examining the ways in which the arts contribute to the health, well being, and social reintegration of returning soldiers and servicemen.” 5,000-7,500 words. Deadline May 31, 2014. [Click here for more details.](#)

**Submit to the Journal of Art and Aesthetics in Nursing and Health Sciences**

Nurses, physicians, administrators, and persons from all areas of healthcare are invited to share what matters about their caring in the form of poetry, music, sculpture, and all forms of visual art. [http://nursing.fau.edu/index.php?main=1&nav=883](http://nursing.fau.edu/index.php?main=1&nav=883)

Previously noted:

- Contribute to AMSA’s *The New Physician*
- [Narrative Medicine Workshops at Columbia](#)
- [Hektoen Essay Contest – Deadline 3/1/14](#)

**EVENTS AND CONFERENCES:**

**Are There Degrees of Moral Status?**

*Friday, February 14, 4:00pm* | Bobst Library, 70 Washington Square South, Rm LL150

[http://bioethics.as.nyu.edu/object/bioethics.events.20140214.wendler](http://bioethics.as.nyu.edu/object/bioethics.events.20140214.wendler)

Sponsored by the NYU Center for Bioethics | Reception to follow, RSVP required

**Speaker:** David Wendler, PhD, Head, Unit on Vulnerable Populations, Department of Bioethics, NIH

“Many philosophers endorse the view that there are degrees of moral status. There is a moral reason not to cause intense pain to rabbits. And there is a moral reason not to cause intense pain to human beings. But, if faced with a choice between causing intense pain to rabbits or causing intense pain to human beings, it is preferable morally to cause pain to the rabbits because they have lower moral status than human beings. The present talk describes the implications of this view for conducting research and then considers two questions: 1. What conditions have to obtain for there to be degrees of moral status within the class of individuals who have moral status; and 2. Do these conditions obtain in the world we happen to inhabit?”

**Triangle Drug Discovery: Artist's Reception with Armelle Pindon**

*Thursday, February 20, 6:00-8:00 pm* | MSB Gallery, NYU Langone Medical Center, 550 First Avenue

Exhibit runs February 6 - March 6, 2014. See attached flyer for details.

**Drug Shortages in the 21st Century: Recent History of a Mystery**

*Thursday, March 6, Lecture at 6:00pm, Light Refreshments at 5:30pm* | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street, Room 20 (2nd Floor)

The lecture is free and open to the public, but advance registration is requested. You can register for this event here: [Drug Shortages in the 21st Century: Recent History of a Mystery](#)

**Speaker:** Jacalyn Duffin, MD, FRCP(C), PhD, FRSC, Hannah Chair of the History of Medicine at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

“Temporary shortages of prescription drugs are not new. In 2008, however, patients and pharmacies across North America began reporting more severe shortages affecting more numerous drugs: some
injectables; some pills; all older, cheaper, off-patent remedies, called “generics.” By 2010, the problem ballooned to crisis proportions for certain conditions....Using media reports, scientific articles, interviews, government documents, and the evidence of previous shortages from as early as World War II, this [talk] will trace the history of the current drug shortage crisis. It will also delve deeper into the pharmaceutical past to identify potential causes.”

**Freud as Fiction: Freud’s Five Great Case Histories Read as Short Stories**  
March 11 – May 6 (meets every other Tuesday), 6:00pm – 7:30pm | The Center for Fiction, 17 E. 47th Street, NYC

“What can we learn today from Freud’s great case histories? These case histories read like detective stories in which Freud treats symptoms as clues. Freud himself wrote, ‘It still strikes me as strange that the case histories I write should read like short stories and that, as one might say, they lack the serious stamp of science.’ Indeed, Freud was never awarded the Nobel Prize but was given the Goethe Prize, a literary award.” The class will read Freud’s five great case histories—Dora; the Rat Man; the Wolf Man; President Shreber, and Little Hans—exploring the literary aspects of language, structure, and suspense.  
http://www.centerforfiction.org/for-readers/join-reading-groups/#freud

**Author Night: The AIDS Generation: Stories of Survival and Resilience**  
Wednesday, March 19, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street

Speaker: Perry N. Halkitis, PhD, MS, MPH  

*The AIDS Generation: Stories of Survival and Resilience* narrates the stories of gay men who have survived since the early days of the epidemic; documents and delineates the strategies and behaviors enacted by men of this generation to survive it; and examines the extent to which these approaches to survival inform and are informed by the broad body of literature on resilience and health. This riveting account will be of interest to health practitioners and historians throughout the clinical and social sciences—or to anyone with an interest in this important chapter in social history.

Tuesday, March 25, 6pm-7:30pm | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street  

Speaker: Heather Varughese John, M.D., Ph.D

“Physicians-in-training are almost as ubiquitous in popular culture as they are on hospital floors, yet their status as not quite fully fledged physicians is not always recognized. The mass-market memoir has helped increase the visibility of these physicians as trainees, as well as raise awareness of the dilemmas posed by an educational model of learning how to treat patients, by treating patients. The first in a long line of narratives to do this was a 1965 best-seller, *Intern*, by ‘Doctor X.’ … This talk will explore not only what these narratives have to say about medical education, but who their authors were, and why they wrote what they did, when they did. These narratives richly reflect the ways in which social change, and rights movements in particular, transformed the American medical profession in the late 20th century.”

**The Unforgettables: People with Dementia and Their Caregivers Join in Harmony**  
Saturday, April 5 | Saint Peter’s Church Sanctuary, Lexington Ave. & 54th Street, NYC

The Unforgettables is a chorus program that brings together people suffering from dementia and their caregivers, using music and social interaction to improve quality of life. It is run by Dr. Mary Mittelman and her colleagues at the Psychosocial Research and Support Program at the Comprehensive Center on Brain Aging at NYULMC.  
http://aging.med.nyu.edu/research/chorus

**The Visual Image & the Future of Medical Humanities**  
May 8-11| Open Gates Conference Center, University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston
This conference brings together scholars, clinicians, scientific investigators and artists to discuss the role of visual images in the medical humanities and how they are being created, circulated and used in medical settings and beyond.

http://tinyurl.com/kdvulqb

**Medical Humanities: Clinical & Pedagogical Perspectives**

**May 25-30 | Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, PA**

The purpose of this Symposium is to provide a practical experience and pedagogical strategies for teaching in the field of medical humanities. Participants will have the opportunity to observe or participate in important aspects of medical education and clinical practice in an academic medical center in order to create and/or enhance medical humanities curricula in their home institutions.

http://www2.med.psu.edu/humanities/kienle-symposium

“Nursing is an art: and if it is to be made an art, it requires an exclusive devotion as hard a preparation, as any painter’s or sculptor’s work; for what is the having to do with dead canvas or dead marble, compared with having to do with the living body, the temple of God’s spirit? It is one of the Fine Arts: I had almost said, the finest of Fine Arts.”

- Florence Nightingale.

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This message is being sent to the NYU Division of Medical Humanities listserv in our efforts to share news of interest to the community. Please feel free to forward these emails to colleagues who may be interested. If you would like to be removed from the email list, please contact Stacy Bodziak (stacy.bodziak@nyumc.org).

**Division of Medical Humanities website**: http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities

**Archive of Past Newsletters**: http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities/medical-humanities-newsletter-archive