**NEWS AND RESOURCES:**

**Dr. Oliver Sacks discusses his new book, *Hallucinations***

Famed neurologist Oliver Sacks, a recent addition to NYULMC’s faculty, and award-winning journalist John Hockenberry will discuss Sacks’ latest book, *Hallucinations*, as part of the World Science Festival’s Science & Story series. The event website notes, “The conversation will canvass the rich cultural history and contemporary science of the hallucinatory experience, and will also touch on Sacks’ own early psychedelic forays that helped convince him to dedicate his life to neurology and to write about the myriad riddles of the human mind.”

(This information was originally going to be posted under the Events section, but unfortunately the event is **sold out**. However, it will be webcast on Friday, November 9th at 7:30pm. [http://worldsciencefestival.com/webcasts/sacks](http://worldsciencefestival.com/webcasts/sacks))

**Empathy and Humanistic Medicine**

- **The Relationship Between Physician Empathy and Disease Complications:** A recent issue of *Academic Medicine* features an interesting study analyzing the relationship between physician empathy and hospitalizations for hyperglycemia among diabetic patients. This study utilized the Jefferson Scale of empathy (a validated 20 item questionnaire that scales compassionate care, “walking in the patient’s shoes” and perspective taking). This scale was applied to 242 physicians who cared collectively for nearly 21,000 patients with diabetes mellitus in the Parma, Italy area. The rate of hospitalizations of patients cared for by physicians scoring lowest on the empathy scale was 4 per thousand while for patients cared for by physicians scoring highest on the empathy score was 6.5 per thousand. Although it may be difficult to be aware of all the variables influencing outcomes in large population studies, this unique study suggests lower empathy is associated with an increase in a measurable adverse outcome of diabetes mellitus. There is accumulating evidence that empathy is not only an important factor underlying patient satisfaction with care but also on patient perception of quality of care as well as outcomes of care. (Del Cannale, S et al. *The Relationship Between Physician Empathy and Disease Complications: An Empirical Study of Primary Care Physicians and Their Diabetic Patients in Parma, Italy*. *Academic Medicine.* 87: 1243-1249, 2012. Attached as PDF.)

- **Residents learning from a narrative experience with dying patients:** From the abstract: “For patients at the end of life, it is crucial to address the psychological, existential, and spiritual distress of patients. Medical education research suggests trainees feel unprepared to provide the whole person, humanistic care held as the ideal. This study used an empirically based narrative intervention, the dignity interview, as an educational intervention with first year residents. The interview helps patients tell and make meaning of their life story. The intervention was aimed at addressing trainee perceived gaps in the non-physical aspects of end-of-life care. It was also intended to stimulate broader reflection on lessons learned in medical education about the value of narrative as part of humanistic care. Twelve first year residents administered a 1 h interview to dying patients. The resident returned to read the transcribed story back to the patient. Semi-structured interviews of the residents
were transcribed and analyzed using the constant comparative method to identify emergent themes. This experience was seen as distinct from the “traditional” medical interview. Residents reflected on lessons learned from patients and on their own professional and personal lives. Residents felt conversations with dying patients, and more broadly the art of soliciting a patient’s story are poorly taught and modeled. More concerning, the hidden curriculum seems to be sending messages that learning a patient’s story is not the domain of a physician and that it is not valued like the curing and technical imperatives. These findings have implications for medical education’s ongoing attempts to better produce humanistic physicians.” (Tait and Hodges. Residents learning from a narrative experience with dying patients: An Empirical Study Advances in Health Sciences Education. Published online 06 Oct 12. Attached as PDF.)

Dr. Arthur Caplan’s writings on bioethics have recently been featured:
- Ethicist: Fixing genes using cloning technique is worth the ethical risk: http://tinyurl.com/9oc8s6u
- Many needlessly getting steroid injections for back pain, bioethicist says: http://tinyurl.com/8fs793f

Seeking Nominations for Gold Humanism Honor Society Resident Chapter
We are seeking nominations of residents and fellows within the NYULMC Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program for membership in the NYULMC Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). Nominations will be accepted through 1 January 2013. More information: http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities/education/gold-humanism-honor-society-residents-program/nominate

OPPORTUNITIES:
Conference / Call for Abstracts
Creating Space III: Deepening the Discussion - Arts, Humanities and the Social Sciences in the Education of Health Professionals

The symposium desires to prompt a critical look at the pedagogic and clinical “spaces” that are imagined or created by the disciplines of the medical humanities, performing and visual arts and the social sciences, as well as to provide continued opportunities for colleagues to share with each other and with AHSSM, their explorations, successes and struggles with respect to pedagogy, program development and implementation, and scholarly inquiry. Anticipated themes include: patient, student and clinician written/performed/visual narratives; arts-based teaching and learning; the hidden curriculum; simulation settings; the patient experience; and cultures and societies.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
EXPOSED: The Ostomy from an Artist’s Point of View
October 6 - 31, 2012
MSB Gallery (adjacent to the Ehrman Medical Library), NYU Langone Medical Center
Artist Lisa Feldman shares her experiences living with an ostomy, demystifying the procedure and challenging the surgery’s stigma.
Bellevue Literary Review Poetry & Prose Reading

Sunday, October 28, 5:00pm
Bellevue Hospital – Rotunda, 462 First Avenue (at 28th St)
http://blr.med.nyu.edu/news/events/

Free and open to the public.
Featured readers include Tom Sleigh, Monica Wendel, and Catherine Lewis. A unique contribution to both literature and medicine, the Bellevue Literary Review publishes works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry that touch upon relationships to illness, health and healing. It is published by the Department of Medicine twice a year. NewPages.com recently said of BLR: “The offerings here are extremely satisfying literature, well worth your attention because you’re human—and good writing heals.”

The moral challenge of high risk research in poor communities: The case of ‘one dose’ cholera vaccine

Wednesday, October 31, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
NYU Langone Medical Center, Smilow Multipurpose Room
RSVP not required | Lunch will be served
NYU School of Medicine Master Scholars, Medical Humanism Program Presents the Colloquium on Medical Ethics
“The moral challenge of high risk research in poor communities: The case of ‘one dose’ cholera vaccine”
Arthur Caplan, Ph.D., Drs. William F and Virginia Connolly Mitty Chair; Director, Division of Medical Ethics; NYU Langone Medical Center
For further information contact:
Loren Wissner Greene, MD, MA (Bioethics) Chair, Colloquium on Medical Ethics - loren.greene@nyumc.org
Allen Keller, MD, Director, Medical Humanism Program - allen.keller@nyumc.org

‘A Dream Deferred’: the Politics of Race After the Genome

Thursday, November 1, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
NYU School of Law - Vanderbilt Hall, Greenberg Lounge, 40 Washington Square South
Reception to follow | Please RSVP to Tamsi New by phone at (212) 998-8552 or by e-mail at tamsi@nyu.edu
Alondra Nelson, Associate Professor of Sociology at Columbia University, presents the Ninth Annual Dorothy Nelkin Lecture, “‘A Dream Deferred’: the Politics of Race After the Genome”

Geisha – The Golden Years 1870-1890

Friday, November 2, 7:00-9:00pm (opening reception; exhibit runs through 11/30)
The Resobox Gallery, 41-26 27th St., Long Island City | info@resobox.com or 718-784-3680 | http://resobox.com/112-new-exhibition-opening-party-geisha-the-golden-years-1870-1890

The images in this exhibition showcase the best of Japanese photographs that were made to show the perceived exotic nature of Japan to the West. Several of the great early photographers’ studios are represented, including Kusabi Kimbel, Ogawa Kazumasa and Baron von Stillfried. These photographs are the original images used by Dr. Stanley Burns and his daughter Elizabeth to create their noted book, Geisha: A Photographic History 1872-1912.

End of Life Decision Making in Spain

Thursday, November 8, 6:00pm-7:30pm
Columbia University, International Affairs Building, Room 411 (420 W. 118th St)
Sponsored by the Columbia University Masters of Bioethics Program. To RSVP or request more information, please contact Patricia Contino at pc2561@columbia.edu

Dr. Pablo Simone, a member of the Bioethics Commission in Spain and a Visiting Professor at Columbia University, will be talking about his experiences in clinical ethics in Spain, and how they resemble, and differ from, those in the US.
Ethical Issues in Short-Term Student-Led Global Health Research  
Thursday, November 15, 6:00pm  
NYU Langone Medical Center, 550 First Avenue, Farkas Auditorium  
Presented by the NYU School of Medicine International Health Program  
Keynote speaker Dr. Kaveh Khoshnood  
See attached flyer for details.

Addiction Between Compulsion and Choice  
Friday, November 16, 4:00-6:00 pm  
5 Washington Place, Room 202  
Reception to follow. RSVP required  
Sponsored by the NYU Center for Bioethics http://bioethics.as.nyu.edu/page/events  
Richard Holton, Professor and Chair, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
“Much of the discussion of addiction is polarized between those who see it as an uncontrollable disease, and those who see it as involving ordinary choice. We aim to take a middle course. The incentive salience model, which sees addiction as involving the formation of intrinsic desires for drugs that are independent of liking and other cognitive states, is well supported. But that does not mean that addictive behaviour is uncontrolled, since there is still a step from the desire to action; and this is where self-control can be deployed. The primary issue is not that addictive behaviour is compulsive, but that it is very hard to control.”

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