**NEWS AND RESOURCES:**

**White Coat, Patient Gown**

“Much has been written about the symbolic function of the white coat: its implications of purity, its representation of authority and professionalism, and its role in consolidating a medical hierarchy. By contrast, the medical literature has paid almost no attention to the patient gown. In this article, [the authors] argue that in order to understand the full implications of the white coat in the doctor–patient relationship, we must also take into account patients’ dress, and even undress. [They] explore contemporary artistic images of white coat and patient gown in order to reveal the power differential in the doctor–patient relationship.”

Wellbery C, Chan M. Med Humanities doi:10.1136/medhum-2013-010463 (online first) – PDF attached http://mh.bmj.com/content/early/2014/03/31/medhum-2013-010463.full

**‘We Sweat, Crave, and Itch All Day’: Why Writing About Bodies Is Vital**

Leslie Jamison, author of *The Empathy Exams*, discusses how Virginia Woolf’s “On Being Ill” freed her to write about the body: “‘On Being Ill’ isn’t just making a case for illness as a literary subject, but for the brute, bare fact of the body itself. By insisting we acknowledge that we sweat and crave and itch all day (‘all day, all night’), Woolf reminds us we have the right to speak about these things—to make them lyric and epic—and that we should seek a language that honors them. The man who suffers a migraine, she writes, is ‘forced to coin words himself, taking his pain in one hand and a lump of pure sound in the other.’ What does it sound like, this strange, unholy language of nerves and excretions? How do we articulate the kind of pain that refuses language? We throw up our hands, or we hurl our charts: one through ten, bad to worse, from the smiley face to its wretched, frowning cousin.”


**Top of the Heap: Graphic Medicine**

A post by anthropologist Sherine Hamdy looks at graphic medicine: “Clinicians have found [graphic novels] eye-opening for the unflinching explorations of disease and treatment from the perspectives of patients and their family members; readers gain insight into medical processes and experiences that others have lived to tell. The use of image provides another way to bring the (perhaps textually oversaturated) reader in, offering ways to visualize strange processes (like seizures, pain, auditory hallucinations, or the darkness of depression). This has led me to ask: Might there be a space for a ‘graphic medical anthropology’ that could bring medical anthropological and bioethical insights into more public engagement? If people are visualizing pain, could we also use images to visualize analytical concepts, like ‘biosocialities’ or ‘structural violence’?”

http://somatosphere.net/2014/03/top-of-the-heap-sherine-hamdy.html

**Malcolm Gladwell: Tell People What It's Really Like To Be A Doctor**

In a recent interview with *Forbes*, writer Malcolm Gladwell spoke about the American healthcare system, ending with a surprising request: “Help people understand what it is really like to be a physician.”

OPPORTUNITIES:

Calls for Papers:

- **Call for Contributors to an Edited Volume: “Bridging the Local and the Global Through the Histories of Science, Medicine, Technology, and the Environment”** – deadline for abstract submission: 5/1/14
- **Engaging Hearts and Minds: Using Literature to Teach Professionalism** – deadline 5/3/14
- **RFA: Advancing Compassionate Care Through Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Practice** – deadline 5/30/14
- **Arts, Social Health, and the Military** – deadline 5/31/14
- **“Disability and Blood: Blood and the Crips” Special issue of Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies** – deadline 6/1/14

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES:

**Performing Medicine Festival**
**Saturday, April 5**, 11am – 6pm | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street
The New York Academy of Medicine hosts a celebration that explores “the interrelationships of medicine, health, and the performing arts with a day-long festival of actors, dancers, doctors, and musicians.”
[http://nyamcenterforhistory.org/perform](http://nyamcenterforhistory.org/perform)

**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](http://aging.med.nyu.edu/research/chorus)

**An Anatomy of Addiction**
**Wednesday, April 9**, 7:45am-8:45am | Farkas Auditorium, NYU Langone Medical Center
Department of Medicine Grand Rounds: [http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/education/grand-rounds](http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/education/grand-rounds)
**Speaker:** Dr. Howard Markel, Director of the Center for the History of Medicine at the University of Michigan

**Short Films of Dr. Arthur Zitrin: “Albert Sabin: A Life in Science” and “Currier McEwen: One Hundred Years in Medicine”**
**Wednesday, April 9**, 4pm-6pm | Translational Research Building, 227 E. 30th St, 1st Floor Conference Room
The Division of Medical Humanities and the NYU Center for Bioethics are pleased to present two screenings of the short films of Dr. Arthur Zitrin. This first screening will show *Albert Sabin: A Life in Science* and *Currier McEwen: One Hundred Years in Medicine*. An alumnus of the NYU School of Medicine, Sabin developed one of the two competing polio vaccines. As long-time dean, McEwen led the transformation of the NYU School of Medicine from a largely local to a national institution. There will be a post-screening discussion with Dr. Zitrin and medical historian Dr. David Oshinsky (Director of the Division of Medical Humanities at NYULMC and Professor of History at NYU). The second session will take place on April 18th – information is below.
[http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities/about-us/events](http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities/about-us/events)
“The Days of Brilliance Are Past”: The Changing Rules of Surgical Performance, ca. 1820-1920

Thursday, April 10, 4pm lecture, followed by reception | NYU King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, 53 Washington Square South, Remarque Institute Seminar Room - 3rd Floor

History of Science, Medicine and Technology Colloquium Series, sponsored by the NYU History Department, co-sponsored by the Gallatin School

Speaker: Thomas Schlich (McGill University)

RSVP to Alexandra Bacopoulos-Viau (abv233@nyu.edu) by April 8th

* Please note: Non-NYU affiliates must bring a valid form of ID to enter the building *

Short Films of Dr. Arthur Zitrin: “The Real Julia: the Muriel Gardiner Story”

Friday, April 18, 5pm-7pm | Jurow Hall, Silver Center for Arts and Sciences, 100 Washington Square East.

The Real Julia: the Muriel Gardiner Story is a portrait of an American heiress, single mother, and medical student who took courageous part in the anti-Nazi Viennese underground before WWII, and subsequently, as a psychoanalyst, devoted herself to troubled, violent youth in New Jersey institutions. (The "unreal Julia" is Lillian Hellman's "portrait" in Penitmento, subsequently a film with Jane Fonda and Vanessa Redgrave.). Reception will be held at Silverstein Lounge from 7:00-8:00pm.

http://bioethics.as.nyu.edu/object/bioethics.events.20140418.filmfestII

School of Netter: The “Michelangelo of Medicine” and His Legacy

Through April 30 | NYU Langone Medical Center, MSB Gallery

2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the publication of the Atlas of Human Anatomy by Frank Netter, MD. The exhibition will celebrate works by Netter and Netter artist protégés, who in their own right have become leaders within the medical illustration field. The artists included will represent a wide range of contemporary medical illustrators from around the country.

Presented by the Real Estate Development + Facilities Department and Elsevier

Reading the Body: Live!

Wednesday, April 30, 6pm | NYU Langone Medical Center, Smilow Seminar Room

A literary evening honoring Frank Netter, “The Michelangelo of Medicine.” Please join us for a live performance of stage actors reading poetry and prose about the body from the Bellevue Literary Review. Light dinner will be served.

Sponsored by the Division of Medical Humanities and the Master Scholars Program in Humanistic Medicine | RSVP Appreciated: CLICK HERE

http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities/about-us/events

Fourth Annual History of Medicine Night

Thursday, May 22, 6:00pm – 7:30pm | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street


Presentations will include short talks on the history of medicine and public health:

- Pioneers of Medical Education and the Spice Trade: Leiden University as a Catalyst for the Dutch Golden Age: Danelle Marqui Brown
- Sculpting a Sexed Society: The Rise of Medicine and the Surgical Eradication of Intersexuality: Marissa B. Nargi
- Aristolochic Acid Nephropathy: Harbinger of a Global Iatrogenic Disease: Arthur P. Grollman, MD
- Processed to Perfection: Milk and American Idealism, 1880-1930: Deborah L. Jones
- Negro Health Week: A People Claims Its Health: Rebecca O. Johnson
“We are not idealized wild things. We are imperfect mortal beings, aware of that mortality even as we push it away, failed by our very complication, so wired that when we mourn our losses we also mourn, for better or for worse, ourselves. As we were. As we are no longer. As we will one day not be at all.”

- Joan Didion, The Year of Magical Thinking

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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