NEWS AND RESOURCES:

How Do We Tell the Stories of Medicine?
Physician-writer Louise Aronson describes her workshops on ‘public medical writing’: “I have held versions of these classes and workshops at meetings and medical centres across the USA. Each time, I am impressed by how the participating health professionals think, what they care about, and what they have to say. The writings themselves vary widely in content and form. Some pieces are fairly journalistic, part story and part fact-based advocacy aimed at improving health and health care. Other works are reflections, largely of use to the writer. A fair number are personal essays about a patient, family member, or the author's own dealings with the medical system. Most participants strive to use a particular experience in the form of a story to say something with wider resonance. Some are literary in the beauty of their sentences or in their structure or imaginativeness; most are not. Many, however, are compelling—well enough written with at least the beginnings of a good story, a persuasive argument, and professional authority. Rarely, they are none of these things. Always, these classes remind me why I became a physician and give me hope for the future of medicine.”
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2814%2960707-8/fulltext

Can Empathy Be As Effective As Aspirin?
A recent study—supported by the Gold Foundation and published in PLOS One—looked at whether the patient-clinician relationship has a significant effect on healthcare outcomes.
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi/10.1371/journal.pone.0094207

Having Cancer is Not a Fight or a Battle
“'She lost her brave fight.’ If anyone mutters those words after my death, wherever I am, I will curse them… I refuse to believe my death will be because I didn't battle hard enough… And that's the problem; in my view the language used around cancer seems to revolve around wartime rhetoric: battle, fight, warrior, beat. While I recognise that these violent words may help others on their journey with cancer, as someone who is never going to ‘win her battle’ with this disease, I find them uncomfortable and frustrating to hear.”
http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/apr/25/having-cancer-not-fight-or-battle

National Poetry Month through Medical Verse
In April, the New York Academy of Medicine celebrated National Poetry Month with a blog series highlighting medical poetry from their collection, including children’s verse (featuring a finger-biting parrot), anatomy-themed limericks (The Limeratomy), and more.
http://nyamcenterforhistory.org/tag/national-poetry-month/

Reading Pain in a Human Face
“Researchers at the University of California, San Diego, have written software that not only detected whether a person’s face revealed genuine or faked pain, but did so far more accurately than human
observers. While other scientists have already refined a computer’s ability to identify nuances of smiles and grimaces, this may be the first time a computer has triumphed over humans at reading their own species.”


**How To Be Useful**

“I met the poor bedraggled woman in the waiting area outside the ICU and I told her that I would stay with her all day. Around lunchtime, when I needed to leave to get us some food, I described to her how happy I used to get whenever a visitor came to see my family at the hospital and how when that person left, I would get so lonely so quickly that it was as if a window had been opened and cold air had rushed in. When I returned from the cafeteria, the woman put her hand on my arm. ‘It was exactly like you said.’ Being there with this woman that day and the next, I felt almost wealthy, that I had information, experience, that was valuable. It was, I imagine, like being a doctor who can bring calm in a difficult situation. It was then that I understood the comfort that comes from making something good out of misfortune. Doing so you stop being a victim, someone who has had bad things happen, and instead become someone who by using the calamity becomes greater than what has occurred.”

http://www.salon.com/2014/04/13/something_useful_from_my_suffering/

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Contribute to the NYU Medical Humanities Blog**

Looking for an opportunity to branch out? The NYU Medical Humanities blog (medhum.med.nyu.edu/blog) is looking for guest writers to contribute content relating to medicine and the humanities. If you have a personal experience or interest that you think would make for an interesting submission, please contact Lucy Bruell, the editor-in-chief of the Literature, Arts, and Medicine database: lucy.bruell@nyumc.org.

**Summer Seminar: Age, Ability, and Healthcare**

This two-day seminar, with built-in opportunities for intimate discussion, will engage healthcare practitioners and medical humanities scholars in addressing ageism and ableism in the clinic and in the classroom. Click here for more information.

**Calls for Papers:**

- **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
- **Call for Abstracts: Fourth Annual Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference** – deadline 7/15/14
- **3rd International Health Humanities Network Conference – Traumatextualities: Trauma in the clinical, arts and humanities contexts**

**EVENTS AND CONFERENCES:**

**Two Doctors, Two Generations: The Evolution of Medical Ethics**

*Two Doctors, Two Generations: The Evolution of Medical Ethics*

**Tuesday, May 6, 5pm | Alumni Hall B, NYU Langone Medical Center, 550 First Avenue, NYC**

Dr. Barron Lerner (Professor, Divisions of Medical Ethics, Medical Humanities, and General Internal Medicine at NYUSOM) leads the inaugural Lerner Lectureship, which was established in honor of the career of Phillip I. Lerner, MD, a humanistic infectious diseases physician who practiced from 1960-2000.
Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Co-sponsored by the Division of Medical Humanities (Department of Medicine) and the Division of Medical Ethics (Department of Population Health)
http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities/about-us/events

NYAM Social Work Section Annual Film Night: AMOUR
Monday, May 12, 5:30-8:00pm | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Ave at 103rd Street
A screening of the film Amour (2013 Oscar-winner for Best Foreign Language Film), which the New York Times called “a masterpiece about life, death and everything in between.” Following the film Dr. Daniel Kaplan, a clinical social worker with expertise in mental and neurological disorders, will facilitate a discussion.

Goldwater Hospital Writing Workshop Reading
Tuesday, May 13, 4:00pm | NYU Silver Center, Jurow Lecture Hall, 100 Washington Square East
Readings by the Golden Writers, participants of a weekly creative writing workshop for disabled adults led by fellows from the NYU Creative Writing Program. Featuring guest author Yusef Komunyakaa.
http://cwp.as.nyu.edu/page/readingseries#may

Bellevue Literary Review Reading
Sunday, May 18, 5:00pm | Bellevue Hospital Rotunda, 462 First Avenue, NYC
The Bellevue Literary Review, a journal of humanity and human experience published by the NYU School of Medicine, will celebrate its Spring issue with a reading of poetry and prose. Featured readers include Helen Benedict, author of The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq; poet Rachel Hadas; and Sean Kevin Campbell.
Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.
http://blr.med.nyu.edu/news/events/

Fourth Annual History of Medicine Night
Thursday, May 22, 6:00 – 7:30pm | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Ave 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

Missing Microbes: How the Overuse of Antibiotics Is Fueling Our Modern Plagues
Tuesday, May 27, 5pm-7pm | Farkas Auditorium, NYU Langone Medical Center, 550 First Avenue, NYC
Free and open to the public | Refreshments will be served
Sponsored by the NYU Department of Medicine | RSVP Appreciated
A reading and reception to celebrate the publication of Dr. Martin Blaser’s new book, Missing Microbes: How the Overuse of Antibiotics Is Fueling Our Modern Plagues. Dr. Blaser will also be signing books, which will be available at a 20% discount courtesy of the NYU Bookstore.
http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities/about-us/events
Listen to Dr. Blaser’s interview on Fresh Air with Terry Gross.
World Science Festival
May 28 – June 1, New York City
Tickets for selected programs at the World Science Festival are now available (with more to be added in the coming days). Interesting events include:

- **Mercury Rising – The Moth at World Science Festival**
  “In partnership with The Moth, New York’s Peabody Award-Winning storytelling collective, scientists, innovators and artists take to the stage with stories of their personal relationship with science: the ups and downs, inspiration, hurdles, and unexpected twists. In keeping with Moth tradition, all stories must be told within ten minutes, without notes. Their stories are a reminder that science is more than equations or experiments; it is a window to humanity, a quest for understanding, and, often, a way of life.”

- **Better, Stronger, Faster: The Future of the Bionic Body**
  “The deaf begin to hear. The blind begin to see. Once damaged hearts begin to pump blood. Forget ‘wearable tech’—we’ve entered a zone where deploying engineering and circuitry inside the human body can help erase disabilities and, more controversially, enhance human capacities beyond their evolutionary limits. Peek into a future where technology will have the capacity to make us stronger, faster and by some measures, better.”

http://worldsciencefestival.com/events/?/wsf2014

“**Man is unique not because he does science, and he is unique not because he does art, but because science and art equally are expressions of his marvelous plasticity of mind.”**

– Jacob Bronowski

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