NEWS AND RESOURCES:

“Making Strange”: A Role for the Humanities in Medical Education
“Stories, film, drama, and art have been used in medical education to enhance empathy, perspective-taking, and openness to ‘otherness,’ and to stimulate reflection on self, others, and the world. Yet another, equally important function of the humanities and arts in the education of physicians is that of ‘making strange’—that is, portraying daily events, habits, practices, and people through literature and the arts in a way that disturbs and disrupts one's assumptions, perspectives, and ways of acting so that one sees the self, others, and the world anew. Enstrangement may be used in medical education in order to stimulate critical reflection and dialogue on assumptions, biases, and taken-for-granted societal conditions that may hinder the realization of a truly humanistic clinical practice.”
http://tinyurl.com/mzr28e7

Bellevue Literary Press Launches Conversation Series
The Bellevue Literary Press (BLP) recently launched the “BLP Conversation Series,” an online interview series featuring a BLP author in written dialogue with a notable figure whose lifework, like BLP’s mission, explores the creative territory at the intersection of the arts and sciences. When these neuroscientists, popular science writers, dramatists, psychiatrists, novelists, historians, physicians, and poets sit down to talk, their exchanges become a testament to how science and the humanities can join forces to educate and inspire.
http://blpress.org/the-periodic-table/

Bioethicists use theatrical narratives to bridge the gap between society and science
“Until now the plays of Karen H. Rothenberg and Lynn W. Bush have been performed for, and by, their peers and others in the genomics community at global conferences, meetings and in classrooms. With Oxford University Press' publication of the book The Drama of DNA: Narrative Genomics, excerpts from the plays, along with analysis and discussion of the ethical and cultural issues surrounding genomic science and medicine, are available to a wider audience.”

‘Only connect’: the case for public health humanities
“As it does, the practice of medicine and the training of physicians begins to overlap in important ways with public health education and practice, which makes the absence of humanities programs in the latter all the more notable. While cultural and ethical awareness is an explicit aim of what [is referred] to as ‘narrative competence’ in medicine, these are qualities no less necessary in public health, which requires professionals who can engage with communities and across disciplines in a culturally competent manner.”
http://mh.bmj.com/content/early/2014/05/05/medhum-2014-010502.full
Stories as a Window into Schizophrenia

“For the past three years, on their own time and with no outside money, Dr. Lynda Crane and a fellow Mount St. Joseph psychologist, Tracy McDonough, have built the Schizophrenia Oral History Project… So far they have recruited two dozen people to sit down with them and a voice recorder, asking their ‘narrators’ simply: What’s it like to be you? ’ The real beauty of this project,’ says Dr. McDonough, ‘comes out of the fact that Lynda and I really try not to ask a lot of questions. The narrators want to tell their stories. They have something to say. Many of them have told us that no one has ever asked them about their lives before.’”

Ten Days in a Mad-House

BrainPickings revisits Nellie Bly’s exposé of Blackwell’s Island, Ten Days in a Mad-House, which is now included in the collection Around the World in Seventy-Two Days and Other Writings: “Once at Blackwell’s Island, her entire reality is transmogrified into a living nightmare — a nightmare from which the system’s real patients can’t be awakened by the end of an undercover assignment. What follows is made all the more poignant by the fact that from the moment Bly arrives on the island, she stops making any attempt to feign insanity and behaves as her usual sane self, only to find that the doctors make no distinction — a detail that pulls into question whether a good portion of the other ‘insane’ women belong there in the first place.”
[http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2014/05/05/ten-days-at-the-mad-house-nellie-bly/](http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2014/05/05/ten-days-at-the-mad-house-nellie-bly/)

New Issue of Hektoen International

In their new issue, Hektoen International presents the winning Brief of the Vesalius Prize, Leonardo and the reinvention of anatomy by Dr. Salvatore Mangione, and highlights many other topics, including Eliot’s triad, Pacini’s corpuscles, Boyle’s law, the history of epilepsy and of the Bank of England.
[http://hekint.org/](http://hekint.org/)

US National Library of Medicine Digital Collections

Digital Collections is the National Library of Medicine's free online archive of biomedical books and videos.

OPPORTUNITIES:

American Resident Project: Apply to be a Writing Fellow

The American Resident Project “connects future physician leaders both online and at in-person events, encouraging them to speak up about the important experiences and insights they can bring to bear on the issues facing our health care system. At the heart of the conversation are the project’s ongoing contributors, known as The American Resident Project Writing Fellows…medical students, residents and physicians newly in practice who contribute monthly blog posts about their experiences in and perspectives on health care delivery.”
[http://americanresidentproject.com/content/fellows](http://americanresidentproject.com/content/fellows)

Contribute to the NYU Medical Humanities Blog

Looking for an opportunity to branch out? The NYU Medical Humanities blog ([medhum.med.nyu.edu/blog](http://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: lucybruell@nyumc.org
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

**EVENTS AND CONFERENCES:**

**NYAM Social Work Section Annual Film Night: AMOUR**
**Monday, May 12, 5:30-8:00pm | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue 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.

**Psychobiography with Dr. Gail Saltz: On Virginia Woolf with Martin Hipsky**
**Monday, May 12, 12:00pm | 92nd Street Y (Lexington Avenue at 92nd St)**
Martin Hipsky explores the interior life and work of the great modernist writer, Virginia Woolf, whose inward-looking masterpieces include *Mrs. Dalloway* and *To the Lighthouse*. Woolf struggled with severe mood disorder as well as the long term effects of sexual abuse in early life, and ultimately succumbed to suicide.

**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](http://cwp.as.nyu.edu/page/readingseries#may)

**Encountering the 21st Century Archive**
**Tuesday, May 13, 5:00pm – 7:00pm | The Humanities Initiative at NYU, 20 Cooper Square, Fifth Floor**
A gallery talk with artist James Nelson, followed by a roundtable discussion on archives with Diana Taylor, Director of the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, and the 2013-2014 Fellows of The Humanities Initiative. Visit the multi-media exhibition by James Nelson, *Two Ton Hammer*, before and after the roundtable. About the exhibition: After the sudden passing of his friend, Tomcat Mahoney, in 2008, Nelson began digitizing Mahoney’s radio show cassette tapes in preparation for their donation to The Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound at Lincoln Center. This exhibit, hosted by the Humanities Initiative, features Nelson’s drawings influenced by the shock of loss and the intimacy of voice.
[http://humanitiesinitiative.org/events/event-registration/?ee=49](http://humanitiesinitiative.org/events/event-registration/?ee=49)

**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 Division of Medical Humanities, 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, 6:00pm – 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: Dannelle 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

**World Science Festival**

**May 28 – June 1, New York City**

Tickets for the World Science Festival are now available. Interesting events include:

- **Science and Story: The Write Angle**
  “Doing science? Hard work. Explaining the results to an interested but scientifically untrained public? Just as difficult. And just as important. Join a conversation with Sean Carroll, Jo Marchant, and Steven Pinker to discuss the responsibilities and challenges science writers face when leading the uninformed into worlds filled with equations, data, minutiae, and long histories of incrementally compiled knowledge. What are the most effective and creative ways for making complex ideas compelling and accessible without compromising their intellectual integrity?”

- **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
Roz Chast

Thursday, May 29, 8:15pm | 92nd Street Y (Lexington Avenue at 92nd St)

Upon publication of her new memoir, Can’t We Talk about Something More Pleasant?, Chast discusses her relationship with her aging parents as they shift from independence to dependence. 


“Wounding and healing are not opposites. They're part of the same thing. It is our wounds that enable us to be compassionate with the wounds of others. It is our limitations that make us kind to the limitations of other people. It is our loneliness that helps us to find other people or to even know they're alone with an illness. I think I have served people perfectly with parts of myself I used to be ashamed of.”

– Rachel Naomi Remen

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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