**NEWS AND RESOURCES:**

‘Scientific artwork’ and medical imagery

- The ‘scientific artworks’ of Doctor Paul Richer: This article examines the “sculptures of pathology” created by Paul Richer in the 1890s, which included busts of patients suffering from labio-glosso-laryngeal paralysis and myopathy, as well as sculptures depicting patients with Parkinson’s disease and juvenile hypothyroidism. The abstract notes: “These patient portraits were seen as objective, while also paradoxically providing an alternative to mechanical media, such as the photograph and the cast, by permitting the doctor’s intervention in not only controlling and animating the sitter, but also emphasizing the patient’s symptoms. This was a new kind of medical specimen: the ‘scientific artwork’, as they were called by a contemporary.” (Ruiz-Gómez N. *Med Humanit* 2013;39:4–10. Attached as PDF)

- View some of Richer’s works: [http://www.faoablog.com/blog/?p=10900](http://www.faoablog.com/blog/?p=10900)

- Portraits, patients and practitioners: “Before an artist, every sitter is in some sense a patient—a person to be looked at repeatedly, carefully, with a kind of attention that derives from expertise, experience and skill. It should therefore come as no surprise that artists have been interested in the theme of the medical examination, and that they have recognized their kinship with medical professionals.” (Jordanova, *Med Humanit* June 2013 Vol 39 No 1. Attached as PDF)

**Only Make Believe Performs the Highest of Art**

Only Make Believe, an organization which brings actors to hospitals to perform for and with children suffering from chronic illnesses and disabilities, performed at the Hospital for Joint Diseases recently. “…Only Make Believe typically performs at hospitals, such as Rusk and Bronx Lebanon, in six-week cycles. The children grow more comfortable and confident each time the actors show up, and start to feel more part of a community than just a hospital patient.”

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324082604578485312967956512.html](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324082604578485312967956512.html)

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Recap of still-open opportunities highlighted in past newsletters:**


- ASBH Student Paper competition. Papers due July 15, 2013. Questions: [info@asbh.org](mailto:info@asbh.org)

- ASBH Mentor-Pairing Workshop. Application due August 1, 2013. See attached.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES:**

*Pictures After Death: Postmortem Photography and Memorialization in 19th-Century America*

**Tuesday, May 21**, 6:30 pm | Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Avenue

Photography of the dead was a common practice in the 19th and early 20th centuries, a way for mourners to visually “embalm” their loved ones. Until recently, however, this once ubiquitous genre of American photographs was largely unexplored. **Dr. Stanley B. Burns**, Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry, NYU
Langone Medical Center, and distinguished author, archivist, and collector, has amassed the most comprehensive collection of this genre in the world and published three books on the subject: the *Sleeping Beauty* series. Dr. Burns will speak about how postmortem photography shaped American culture in the 19th century. Presented in conjunction with *A Beautiful Way to Go: Brooklyn’s Green-Wood Cemetery*. Reservations required (see attached flyer for discount code).

http://www.nyam.org/events/2013/pictures-after-death.html

**Efficiency in Medicine: Some ethical problems with evidence-based medicine and other ways of making the delivery of medical care more efficient**

**Wednesday, May 22, 12pm-1:30pm | Translational Research Building, 227 East 30th St., Conference Room 718**

**RSVP not required. Lunch will be served.**

**Speaker:** Herbert Leventer, Ph.D., Adjunct Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Yeshiva University; Master Scholars Program, NYU School of Medicine

**For further information:** Loren Wissner Greene, MD, MA (Bioethics), Chair, Colloquium on Medical Ethics, lorengreene@nymc.org

**Poetry Reading With Felice Aull, Jack Coulehan, Madeleine Beckman**

**Wednesday, May 22, 6pm-7:30pm | Cornelia Street Café, 29 Cornelia Street**

Felice Aull’s poetry chapbook, *The Music Behind Me*, was published in 2012. She is adjunct associate professor of medicine at NYU School of Medicine and founder of the Literature, Arts, and Medicine Database. www.feliceaul.ca

Madeleine Beckman is author of the poetry collection *Dead Boyfriends*. She teaches writing seminars at NYU School of Medicine and is non-fiction editor of *Ithaca Lit*. http://ithacalit.com/madeleine-beckman.html#.UVNi-FeF03h

Jack Coulehan’s latest poetry collection, *Bursting with Danger and Music*, was published in 2012. He is also a physician and medical educator. http://litmed.med.nyu.edu/User?action=viewEditor&id=4

Miranda Field’s book, *Swallow*, won a Katharine Bakeless Nason Literary Publication Award in Poetry, and she received a “Discovery”/The Nation Award, and a Pushcart Prize.

http://www.poetrysociety.org/psa/poetry/crossroads/new_american_poets/miranda_field/

**The Medical Humanities Consortium Meeting: Medical Humanities in Clinical Practice**

**Wednesday, May 22 – Thursday, May 23 | Drew University**

This two-day conference about “Medical Humanities in Clinical Practice” features keynote speaker Dr. Danielle Ofri on “Singular Intimacies: Literature as a Bridge between Caregiver and Patient,” as well as panels on “From Sandy Hook and Aurora to *Silver Linings Playbook*: Media Portrayals of Mental Illness,” “Healing Arts During War: Exploring the Art of Combat Artists,” “Arts-based Faculty Development: Catalyzing a Learning Community Around Art and Teaching,” and more.

**Caring for the long-term acutely ill patient: professional boundaries, challenges to empathy, and emotional burden (Schwartz Center Rounds)**

**Thursday, May 23, 12:00pm - 1:00pm | HJD – Loeb Auditorium**

*Boxed lunches will be available to pick up after the program*

**PANELISTS:** Brent Wise, MD; Mary Reid, NP; Honda Brasco, MDiv, P-BCC; Rachele Burriesci, PT

**PHYSICIAN LEADERS:** Robert Press, MD, Steven Field, MD

**FACILITATED BY:** Brenda Ohta, PhD

**ALL CAREGIVERS HOSPITAL-WIDE ARE WELCOME**

For more information, please contact Shauna Ford at Shauna.Ford@nyumc.org

**Schwartz Center Rounds:** A multidisciplinary forum for clinical caregivers to discuss social and emotional issues that arise in caring for patients | For general information about the Schwartz Center Rounds Program, visit http://www.theschwartzcenter.org/

**World Science Festival**

**May 29 – June 2 | New York City**

The World Science Festival is an annual celebration and exploration of science, featuring five days of programming. Events include “Science & Story: Cutting-Edge Discovery for a Literary Public” and
“Architects of the Mind: A Blueprint for the Human Brain.” Explore the schedule and get tickets here: http://www.worldsciencefestival.com/events

**Medical Humanities Summer Course: Italian Perspectives**
**September 8-13, 2013 |** Padua and Venice, Italy  
Contents: Medical Humanities and Bioethics; Charity and Its Artistical Interpretations; Medical History and Medical Humanities; Painting, Literature, Sculpture, Architecture, Cinema and Medicine; Arts, Medicine and Psychiatry. For more information: www.fondazionelanza.it/medicalhumanities/

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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