DIVERSITY OF MEDICAL HUMANITIES | DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

NEWS AND RESOURCES:

Diversity & Inclusion

- The AAMC website now features a recording of last month’s AAMC webcast with Dr. Scott E. Page, the Leonid Hurwicz Collegiate Professor of Complex Systems, Political Science, and Economics, at the University of Michigan and author of The Difference: How the Power of Diversity Creates Better Groups, Firms, Schools and Societies. The 90-minute session highlighted Dr. Page’s research on the role of diversity in organizational performance as applied to academic medicine. Dr. Marc Nivet, AAMC Chief Diversity Officer, facilitated the dialogue with Dr. Page, helping to raise our community’s collective intelligence around diversity and inclusion. Dr. Claire Pomeroy, Chief Executive Officer of UC Davis Health System, UC Davis Vice Chancellor for Human Health Sciences, Dean of the School of Medicine, and member of the AAMC Board of Directors, offered framing remarks.
  
  http://livewebcast.net/aamc/091712

- Academic Medicine features a collection of ‘published ahead-of-print’ articles online, some on the subject of Diversity and Inclusion. For a list, visit:
  
  http://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/toc/publishahead

  A few highlights are attached as PDFs:
  
  o “Changes in the Representation of Women and Minorities in Biomedical Careers” by Myers and Fealing
  o “Improving Diversity Through Strategic Planning: A 10-Year (2002-2012) Experience at the Medical University of South Carolina” by Deas, et al.

- “Opening Up the Lab: Improving Access to Science for People with Disabilities” – A profile of a researcher at Purdue University who strives to make science more accessible to people with disabilities. A quadriplegic himself, he also studies spinal cord injury and repair.
  
  http://publications.nigms.nih.gov/findings/sept12/opening-up-the-lab.asp

“How do you feel?”: oscillating perspectives in the clinic

“The physician is often construed as an objective observer, palpating, listening, looking, and examining an object that is laid before her: the patient’s body. The patient is a subject, experiencing pain, discomfort, or relief. However, we would suggest that the situation is more complex. The patient’s view of her body might become objective, while the physician’s presence is often also subjective, because it perceives and senses as only subjects can.”

(Article attached as a PDF: Carel and Mcnaughton, Lancet, 2012 v139p2335)

The Right to Die

- “The Liverpool Pathway brings many of the practices of hospice care into a hospital setting, where it can reach many more patients approaching death. ‘It’s not about hastening death,’ Sir Thomas told me. ‘It’s about recognizing that someone is dying, and giving them choices. Do you want an oxygen mask over your face? Or would you like to kiss your wife?’”
  
  http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/08/opinion/keller-how-to-die.html?hp

- A terminally ill woman’s right to choose when to remove her life support was upheld in a court battle with her parents, though she later decided to remain on a respirator. Dr. Arthur Caplan
writes: “Grace Lee has the absolute right, as do you or I, to stop her medical care. There is no duty for any competent adult to be a patient or to let doctors give treatments that are not wanted. Jehovah’s Witnesses can refuse life-saving blood transfusions; Christian Scientists and Evangelicals can pray rather than go to the hospital when disease appears. I don't agree that is wise to do, but I do agree that they and the rest of us have a fundamental right to control what is done by doctors to our bodies.”  [http://vitals.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/10/05/14246982-opinion-daughter-has-right-to-die-against-parents-wishes?lite](http://vitals.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/10/05/14246982-opinion-daughter-has-right-to-die-against-parents-wishes?lite)

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

*Virtual Mentor’s 2012 Conley Ethics Essay Contest for Medical Students / Journal Editorship Opportunity*

The deadline for *Virtual Mentor’s 2012 Conley Ethics Essay Contest for Medical Students* is October 15. Information on the topic for this year’s essay and entry instructions are available at [http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/site/conleyscenario.html](http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/site/conleyscenario.html). The winning essayist receives $5,000 and runners-up receive $1,000.

*Virtual Mentor* is also accepting applications for medical student and resident editors for the journal’s 2013-14 academic year. Application information can be found at [http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/site/issue-edscall.html](http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/site/issue-edscall.html). The deadline for applications is November 15. Each of the 12 editors selected [one for each month] receives a stipend of $1,500.

**Webinar: Research Involving “Edge” Populations: Ethical and Regulatory Considerations**

The Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research (PRIM&R) has scheduled a webinar for Thursday, October 18, 1:00-2:30 PM ET – “Research Involving ‘Edge’ Populations: Ethical and Regulatory Considerations.” Cynthia Gómez, PhD, and Julia Gorey, JD, will discuss the complex ethical and regulatory issues that can arise in research involving “edge” populations, including the homeless, substance abusers, and/or HIV-positive subjects. For more information and to register: [http://www.primr.org/Conferences.aspx?id=15977](http://www.primr.org/Conferences.aspx?id=15977)

**2012 Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Summit**

The 2012 Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Summit will be held Wednesday, October 31 to Friday, November 2, 2012 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at National Harbor, MD, in suburban DC. The meeting is being organized by NIH, through the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and in collaboration with other NIH institutes and centers and other federal agencies. The theme of the meeting is “Building a Healthier Global Society: Integrating Science, Practice, and Policy.”  [http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/summit_site/](http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/summit_site/)

**Yale University Summer Institute in Bioethics**

June 3 – July 26, 2013 • New Haven, CT

Yale’s Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics hosts an intensive Summer Institute for U.S. and international participants. The Institute is an 8-week immersion consisting of lectures, seminars, and research exploring bioethical concerns relating to medicine, law, religion, public health, animal rights, and the environment.

*Application deadline for U.S. applicants: January 15, 2013. International students encouraged to apply by November 30.*

For further information, please see [www.yale.edu/bioethics/summer.shtml](http://www.yale.edu/bioethics/summer.shtml)

**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.
See attached flyer.

**One Day on Earth: Screening and Discussion**
**Wednesday, October 17, 6:00pm**
NYU Langone Medical Center, Alumni Hall A
*Free and open to the public ~ Sponsored by the Division of Medical Humanities*
Film screening and discussion with Executive Producer Brandon Litman
*One Day on Earth* is a video time capsule of one day – 10 October 2010. More than 19,000 filmmakers, both professional and novice, contributed 3,000 hours of footage. The project, headed by Founder/Director Kyle Ruddick and Co-founder/Executive Producer Brandon Litman, donated video cameras to more than 95 UN country offices, which resulted in unusually intimate access, including footage of remote villages of Papua New Guinea and Abyei, a district of South Sudan with a history of border disputes. We see both the challenges and hopes of humanity from a diverse group of volunteer filmmakers assembled by a participatory media experiment. The film shows a world that is greatly interconnected, enormous, perilous, and wonderful.
http://www.onedayonearth.org/
http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities/about-us/events

**The Humanities at NYU: Tradition and Innovation**
**Wednesday, October 17, 5:00-7:00PM**
20 Cooper Square, 5th Floor
*Free and open to the public*
To reserve your place, visit: http://humanitiesatnyu.eventbrite.com
The Humanities Initiative at NYU cordially invites you to a reception for the launch of their latest publication -- *The Humanities at NYU: Tradition and Innovation*. The event will celebrate the commitment of NYU’s faculty and students to their research, to the broader public, to professional education, and to the global community. Across eighteen schools and institutes and over a dozen sites abroad, scholars in the humanities at NYU cultivate new knowledge about every aspect of human experience, from ancient times to the contemporary moment.

**A Life’s Work: Benedict J. Fernandez**
**Through October 19**
Robert Anderson Gallery, 24 W. 57th Street, NYC
646-455-0393 | www.robertandersongallery.com
The veteran photojournalist, now seventy-six, shows black-and-white work dating back to 1964, when he was on the front lines of the antiwar and civil-rights movements. Always a freelancer, Fernandez was drawn to protests and demonstrations, both progressive and reactionary, including Allen Ginsberg wearing a “Pot Is Fun” placard and a blond child brandishing a sign that asks “Who Needs Niggers?” Other subjects (bikers in Daytona Beach, ranters in Hyde Park) provide diversion, but the photographer’s most valuable work bears witness to pro-war street skirmishes, the aftermath of the Newark riots, and Martin Luther King’s children huddled beside their father’s casket.
*From Goings On About Town: Art in The New Yorker, October 15, 2012*
Read more: http://www.newyorker.com/arts/events/art/benedict-j-fernandez-anderson#ixzz28qoxVKNb

**Out of the Ashes: Approaches to the Medical Dilemmas Born Out of the Holocaust**
**Sunday, October 21, 9am – 3:30pm**
Yeshiva University, Wilf Campus
*For more information and to register, visit: www.yumedicaledics.com*
Any questions should be directed to Avi Fink, Events Coordinator, at azfink90@gmail.com.
The Yeshiva University’s Student Medical Ethics Society hosts the Seventh Annual Fuld Family Medical Ethics Society Conference entitled “Out of the Ashes: Jewish Approaches to the Medical Dilemmas Born
Out of the Holocaust.” The primary focus of this conference will be to discuss the contemporary relevance of ethical challenges that arose during the Holocaust, specifically addressing topics such as human experimentation, trans-generational trauma, and attitudes towards the mentally disabled. Being a Jewish institution, the discussion will be focused on the medical, ethical, and Jewish Law perspectives.

**German Medicine, Nazi Ethics, and the Legacy of the Holocaust**

**Thursday, October 25, 6:00-7:00pm, with reception to follow**

*Fall Colloquium with Dr. Arthur Caplan, Director of the Division of Medical Ethics in the Department of Population Health*

The field of bioethics has either remained silent in the face of Nazi crimes or accepted the myths that Nazi biomedicine was inept, mad, or coerced. The fact is that many of those who committed the crimes of the Holocaust were competent physicians and scientists who acted from strong moral convictions. This puzzle of how it came to be that physicians and scientists who caused so much suffering and death did so in the belief that they were morally right is the focus of this presentation.

*Sponsored by NYULMC Master Scholars Program in Humanistic Medicine*

RSVP required by 10/12/12: [http://school.med.nyu.edu/mspevents](http://school.med.nyu.edu/mspevents)

**Bellevue Literary Review Poetry & Prose Reading**

**Sunday, October 28, 5:00pm**

Bellevue Hospital – Rotunda, 462 First Avenue (at 28th St)


*Free and open to the public.*

Featured readers include Tom Sleigh, Monica Wendel, Edward Hamlin, 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](http://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.”

**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](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.”

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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](http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities)

**Archive of Past Newsletters:** [http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities/medical-humanities-newsletter-archive](http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/medhumanities/medical-humanities-newsletter-archive)