NEWS AND RESOURCES:

The Division of Medical Humanities is home to NYU School of Medicine’s unique literary projects: the Bellevue Literary Review and Bellevue Literary Press. Here are a few updates from each:

**Bellevue Literary Review**

- **Theme Issues:** The Bellevue Literary Review is seeking submissions of previously unpublished fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for an [upcoming theme issue](#) on health in the context of environmental issues (deadline 2/1/14). Its current theme issue—“A Mosaic of Voices”—explores how culture intersects with medicine.

- **Literary Prizes:** The BLR’s annual literary prizes award outstanding writing on the themes of illness, health, and healing. The [winners of the 2014 prizes were just announced](#), and the next cycle will open to submissions on February 1, 2014, with judges [Anne Fadiman](#) (nonfiction), [Chang-Rae Lee](#) (fiction), and [Major Jackson](#) (poetry).

- **Reviewer opportunities:** If you enjoy reading and would like to stretch your ‘critiquing muscles,’ the BLR is in need of additional manuscript reviewers. This is done online and at your convenience, and you can choose to read fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or a mix of genres. For more information, email [info@BLReview.org](mailto:info@BLReview.org)

**Bellevue Literary Press – recent titles**

- **Leonardo’s Foot** "stretches back to the fossil record and forward to recent discoveries in evolutionary science to demonstrate that it was our feet rather than our brains that first distinguished us from other species within the animal kingdom. Taking inspiration from Leonardo da Vinci’s statement that ‘the human foot is a masterpiece of engineering and a work of art,’ Carol Ann Rinzler leads [readers] on a fascinating stroll through science, medicine, and culture to shed light on the role our feet have played in the evolution of civilization.”

- **Then They Started Shooting** “upends the traditional discourse on the victims of war by continuing the narrative long after the violence has ended. The stories in this book are eloquently and poignantly recounted, and offer a vital, complex portrait of what the long road to peace looks like.”

- **The Child** “is an unflinching portrait of a couple ravaged by illness and locked into mutual isolation—that is, until the arrival of a young boy brings hope and upsets their delicate danse macabre to devastating effect.”

**The Science and Art of Science Writing**

“Science writing has a reputation for bloodlessness, but in many ways it is the most human of disciplines. Science, after all, is a quest, and as such it’s one of the oldest and most enduring stories we have. It’s about searching for answers, struggling with setbacks, persevering through tedium and competing with colleagues all eager to put forth their own ideas about how the world works… The most memorable science writing also puts humans back in the equation, introducing the reader to both the people behind the science and the people affected by it, for better and worse. It transcends the genre, becoming not just good science writing but just good writing, and as such it unlocks entire fields of research to the rest of us.”

Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Essay Contest Winners
The Gold Foundation’s 2013 essay contest asked participants to write on one of the following themes: “Who is the ‘good’ doctor?” or “What do you think are the barriers to humanism in medicine today?” The winner and runners-up can be read on the Gold website and have been reprinted in Academic Medicine. http://www.humanism-in-medicine.org/index.php/programs_grants/gold_foundation_programs/essay_contest

OPPORTUNITIES:
Previously noted:
• Medical Humanities Elective at NYU School of Medicine
• Call for Submissions: “The Living Hand” via JGIM
• Humanistic Elective in Activism, Reflective Transformation, and Integrative Medicine – Deadline 2/1/14

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES:
The Death of Two Presidents: Lincoln, Garfield, and the Dawn of Antiseptic Medicine at Bellevue
Wednesday, December 18, 7:45am-8:45pm Farkas Auditorium, NYU Langone Medical Center
Department of Medicine Grand Rounds
Featuring David Oshinsky, PhD, Director of the Division of Medical Humanities
A light breakfast will be served. Grand Rounds will be broadcast live online from the Medical Grand Rounds website: http://medicine.med.nyu.edu/education/medicine-grand-rounds-online

Colloquium on Medical Ethics
Wednesday, December 18, 12pm-1:30pm | Translational Research Building, 227 East 30th St., Seminar Room 120
RSVP not required | Lunch will be served.
For further information: Loren Wissner Greene, MD, MA (Bioethics), Chair, Colloquium on Medical Ethics, loren.greene@nyumc.org

The Ethical Challenges of Research in Humanitarian Emergencies: Sandy, Katrina, Bosnia, Fukushima, Haiti, Syria and Beyond
Tuesday, January 21, 3:30pm-5:00pm | 622 W. 168th Street, Pathology Library (PH 15W-1560) 15th Fl. Regulatory and Ethics Workshop hosted by Columbia’s Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research | For further information: Paul S. Appelbaum, MD, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center 212.543.4184, psa21@columbia.edu
Presenter: Arthur Caplan, PhD, Director, Division of Medical Ethics, Drs. William F. and Virginia Connolly Mitty Professor of Bioethics, NYU Langone Medical Center
“Interventions launched amidst humanitarian emergencies have not been subject to very much research. In part this is due to the belief that good intentions and common sense must prevail in trying to render help. In part it is due to tradition. But new initiatives to foster more research and evaluation are being launched by groups like the Wellcome Trust. If this research is to be done in the midst of crises, what ethical rules should govern human subjects protection of highly vulnerable populations? Relatively little has been said about this challenge. This talk will review what has been said and offer a platform for thinking through how best to protect subjects in the direst of circumstances.”

Tuesday, March 25, 6pm-7:30pm | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue at 103rd St http://www.nyam.org/events/2014/2014-03-25.html
Physicians-in-training are almost as ubiquitous in popular culture as they are on hospital floors, yet their status as not quite fully fledged physicians is not always recognized. The mass-market memoir has helped increase the visibility of these physicians as trainees, as well as raise awareness of the dilemmas posed by an educational model of learning how to treat patients, by treating patients. The first in a long line of narratives to do this was a 1965 best-seller, Intern, by ‘Doctor X.’… This talk will explore not only what these narratives have to say about medical education, but who their authors were, and why they wrote what they did, when they did. These narratives richly reflect the ways in which social change, and rights movements in particular, transformed the American medical profession in the late 20th century.”

**The Visual Image & the Future of Medical Humanities**
**May 8-11, 2014 | Open Gates Conference Center, University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston**
This conference brings together scholars, clinicians, scientific investigators and artists to discuss the role of visual images in the medical humanities and how they are being created, circulated and used in medical settings and beyond.
http://tinyurl.com/kdvulqb

**Medical Humanities: Clinical & Pedagogical Perspectives**
**May 25-30, 2014 | Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, PA**
The purpose of this Symposium is to provide a practical experience and pedagogical strategies for teaching in the field of medical humanities. Participants will have the opportunity to observe or participate in important aspects of medical education and clinical practice in an academic medical center in order to create and/or enhance medical humanities curricula in their home institutions.
http://www2.med.psu.edu/humanities/kienle-symposium

**The Power of Poison**
**Through August 10, 2014 | American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street**
http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/the-power-of-poison
The *New York Times* notes: “This is also one of the most theatrical exhibitions the museum has mounted in recent years. You enter through mists and vines evoking Colombia’s Chocó forest. It is the habitat of those golden frogs (Phyllobates terribilis), of hunters who use blowguns and poisonous darts, and of Giant Silkworm caterpillars, whose hollow spines, we learn, can pierce the skin and cause uncontrollable bleeding. At the center of the exhibition is a theater in which, every half-hour, a presenter uses mock lab equipment and a slide show to demonstrate how chemical tests were first used to detect arsenic poisoning — and murder — in the 19th century.”

“Don’t let yourself be. Find something new to try, something to change. Count how often it succeeds and how often it doesn’t. Write about it. Ask a patient or a colleague what they think about it. See if you can keep the conversation going.” – Atul Gawande

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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