NEWS AND RESOURCES:

Art in good health: how science and culture mix the best medicine
“To see artists and scientists working together in this way is nothing new. Historically, both artists and clinicians were often polymaths, with their feet firmly in both camps, and the distinction between science and the arts can be viewed as a modern one, imposed by an education system that requires children to specialize at an early age. But to see scientific organizations choosing to fund art – stating, in effect, that it is through art that a particular scientific message can best be communicated to the public – is a relatively recent, and intriguing development. So why are these organizations choosing to fund arts projects? And what do both artists and scientists get from the close working relationship that should, in theory, result?”
http://www.theguardian.com/culture-professionals-network/culture-professionals-blog/2014/jan/20/art-health-science-culture-medicine

Searching for Semmelweis
“Although we might not know the ‘truth’ about Semmelweis, learning the history of the history of Semmelweis (what historians call historiography) has its own great value. The myths that emerged about Semmelweis remind us of the ongoing cultural currency of several ideas: that doctors should fully devote themselves to saving their patients’ lives; that they should be willing to fight the establishment to do so; and that they might even make substantial personal sacrifices along the way.” – Dr. Barron Lerner, Professor, Divisions of Medical Ethics, Medical Humanities and General Medicine, NYU Langone Medical Center
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2814%2960062-3/fulltext

Wellcome Images Releases 100,000 Pictures Online
The Wellcome Library, one of the world's leading collections of medical history, has announced that over 100,000 pictures from its archives are now freely available online.
http://wellcomeimages.org
http://www.creativereview.co.uk/cr-blog/2014/january/wellcome-images

New Issue of Hektoen International
Hektoen International’s new issue explores “concepts of beauty as understood in different cultures. We learn about Cleopatra’s borderline personality disorder, the psychology of vengeance, medieval headaches, measles in the young, and the history of anesthesia and also how the gut is unloved by poets, how laughter helps ease the burden of diabetes, and how the family that eats together stays together – happy and thin.” http://hekint.org

Empathy and integrative thinking: Talmudic paradigms for the essentials of a medical interview
“Intentional empathy and integrative thinking are essential elements of a medical interview. Yet the repetitive, sometimes monotonous, nature of medical practice can compromise their achievement. Emotional and intellectual fatigue may lead to clouded observation with diagnostic errors resulting. In spite of a long extant pedagogy of teaching interviewing techniques and creative mnemonics, hurdles remain and significant miscues continue. The challenge is one of surmounting these obstacles and of
finding ‘new’ ways to perform ‘old’ tasks. It is to do what we already know to do but somehow do not. In the essay which follows, two Talmudic legends are identified and discussed as paradigms for empathy and integrative thinking. They are offered as ‘literary mnemonics’ for potential use in physician–patient encounters.”

http://mh.bmj.com/content/early/2014/01/24/medhum-2013-010444.short?g=w_mh_ahead_tab

**How We See Ourselves: A Resident’s Reflection on the Class Play**

“The class play takes many forms and has been called many things over the years— ‘skits’ or ‘follies’ and now ‘plays.’ They have been acted on stages and have increasingly taken the form of videos and YouTube clips. Medical students and residents construct them with their peers. They exist as both institution and department specific, but also universal and unifying across medical training. At their core, the plays process experiences and hearken to deeper truths about the lived reality of development in medicine.”

http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10912-014-9270-z/fulltext.html

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

Previously noted:
- Narrative Medicine Workshops at Columbia
- Hippocrates Prize for Poetry and Medicine – Deadline 1/31/14
- Humanistic Elective in Activism, Reflective Transformation, and Integrative Medicine – Deadline 2/1/14
- Hektoen Essay Contest – Deadline 3/1/14

**EVENTS AND CONFERENCES:**

*The Lobotomy Files: the story of the VA lobotomies of veterans during and after WW II*

*Wednesday, January 29, 12pm-1:30pm | Translational Research Building, 227 East 30th St., Seminar Room 120*
*Colloquium on Medical Ethics, presented by the Division of Medical Ethics, Department of Population Health, NYULMC*
*Speaker: Michael Phillips,* Staff Reporter, Washington Bureau of the *Wall Street Journal*

Michael Phillips is the author of *The Gift of Valor* (Broadway Books, 2005), about the life and death of Corporal Jason Dunham, the first Marine to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War. In 2011, he won a National Press Club award for telling the story of a bomb-sniffing yellow lab who couldn’t handle the stress of combat in Afghanistan. In 2013, his writing about Afghanistan and the war’s aftermath at home won the Ernie Pyle prize from the Scripps Howard Foundation and New York Press Club and Washington DC Society of Professional Journalists feature-writing awards. His first-person account of a suicide bombing in Afghanistan received the 2013 Military Reporters and Editors prize for overseas coverage and the 2013 Major Megan McClung Award from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. His photographs of a suicide attack in Afghanistan won the Military Reporters and Editors photography prize (2013) and took second place in the spot-news category in the National Headliner Awards (2013).

*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*

*‘At Any Cost’: Maternal Decision Making and its Impact on the Staff in a Medically Complex Case (Schwartz Center Rounds)*

*Thursday, January 30, 12:00pm - 1:00pm | NYULMC, Smilow Seminar Room*
*Boxed lunches will be served at 11:45am | Note: Limited Seating Available*
*PANELISTS: Ashley Roman, MD; Jane Weckesser, RN; Lisa Malchiodi-Smith, LCSW*
*PHYSICIAN LEADERS: Robert Press, MD, Steven Field, MD*
Narrative Medicine Rounds
Wednesday, February 5, 5:00-7:00pm | Columbia University Medical Center Faculty Club, 630 West 168th Street, 4th Floor
http://narrativemedicine.org/rounds.html
Free and open to the public
Narrative Medicine Rounds are lectures or readings presented by scholars, clinicians, or writers engaged in work at the interface between narrative and health care. This event will feature photographer Amy Arbus.

Fourth Annual History of Medicine Night
Thursday, February 6, 6:00pm – 7:30pm | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street
http://www.nyam.org/events/2014/2014-02-06.html
Presentations will address historical topics related to medicine. To submit a paper for consideration, contact Donna Fingerhut for submission guidelines at dfingerhut@nyc.rr.com or 212-419-3645.

The Default Mode Network in Aesthetics and Creativity
Thursday, February 6, 5:30pm | NYU Silver Center for Arts and Science, Jurow Lecture Hall, 31 Washington Place (between Greene St and Washington Square East)

• Keynote Speech

Friday, February 7, 8:30am | The Italian Academy, Columbia University, 1161 Amsterdam Avenue (south of 118th St)

• Full-day Conference

Murray J. Berenson Distinguished Scholar in Doctor-Patient Communication Lecture
Wednesday February 12, 7:45am, Alumni Hall B, NYULMC
Dr. Amitai Ziv will be the guest presenter at the Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, with the topic Simulation-Based Education as a Patient Safety & Quality Care Vehicle
Dr. Ziv is Chairman of the Department of Medical Education, Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University and the Founder and Director of the Israel Center for Medical Simulation
Sponsored by The Program for Medical Education Innovations and Research (PrMEIR), NYU Langone Medical Center. Contact: Charity Hung. See attached PDF for additional programming and more information

Freud as Fiction: Freud’s Five Great Case Histories Read as Short Stories
March 11 – May 6 (meets every other Tuesday), 6:00pm – 7:30pm | The Center for Fiction, 17 E. 47th Street, NYC
“What can we learn today from Freud’s great case histories? These case histories read like detective stories in which Freud treats symptoms as clues. Freud himself wrote, ‘It still strikes me as strange that the case histories I write should read like short stories and that, as one might say, they lack the serious stamp of science.’ Indeed, Freud was never awarded the Nobel Prize but was given the Goethe Prize, a literary award.” The class will read Freud’s five great case histories—Dora; the Rat Man; the Wolf Man; President Shreber, and Little Hans—exploring the literary aspects of language, structure, and suspense.
http://www.centerforfiction.org/for-readers/join-reading-groups/#freud
Tuesday, March 25, 6pm-7:30pm | The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Ave at 103rd St

Speaker: Heather Varughese John, M.D., Ph.D
“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 Unforgettables: People with Dementia and Their Caregivers Join in Harmony
Saturday, April 5 | Saint Peter’s Church Sanctuary, Lexington Ave. & 54th Street, NYC
The Unforgettables is a chorus program that brings together people suffering from dementia and their caregivers, using music and social interaction to improve quality of life. It is run by Dr. Mary Mittelman and her colleagues at the Psychosocial Research and Support Program at the Comprehensive Center on Brain Aging at NYULMC.
http://aging.med.nyu.edu/research/chorus

The Visual Image & the Future of Medical Humanities
May 8-11 | 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 | 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

“I prefer not to starve, to live by the practice of medicine, which combines the best features of both science and philosophy with that imponderable and enlightening element, disease, unknown in its normality to either. But, like Pasteur, when he was young, or anyone else who has something to do, I wish I had more money for my literary experiments.” - William Carlos Williams

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