

The Examined Life: the Writing, Humanities and Arts of Medicine

Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA

Thursday, October 6, 2016

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM in MERF Atrium

Check-in & Light Breakfast

Get your conference materials, say Hello to Dave and Jason, have your questions answered and get your problems solved. Within reason, of course. Welcome to Iowa!

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM in 2117 MERF

Welcome

Plenary

The official opening session of the 2016 Examined Life Conference.

10 AM - 11:15 AM in 1289 CBRB

Music and Medicine: Improving Patient-Doctor Communication

A mix of Lecture and Performance

Mason LaMarche (University of Iowa)

Music has been studied by sociologists and anthropologists for its socio-cultural impact on communities. It is a major part of the human experience, but is medical education taking advantage of this valuable vehicle of human expression? The ability to analyze a musical composition is a valuable tool by which healthcare professionals can begin to better listen to their patient's voice. A well-trained ear knows how to evaluate the rhythm, melody, and hidden special effects which contributes to the overall message of a song. In the same way, a well-trained ear could apply those same skills to listening to another person in order to truly discern their message. Music has a place within the art of medicine. The foundation of clinical interaction is based upon listening and performing, both skills which healthcare professionals must perfect within their own practices.

10 AM - 11:15 AM in 2117 MERF

McMaster Paediatric Residency Literary Companion

Panel discussion

Caroline Diorio MD (McMaster Children's Hospital), Malgorzata Nowaczyk MD (McMaster Children's Hospital)

Competency in the practice of clinical medicine depends on the physician's ability to interpret information conveyed by patients. Physicians must be able to understand complex stories from different sources – the patient's account of their presentation, the story their physical body tells, and the narrative of their disease. Over the past decade, increasing attention has been paid to the disciplines of narrative medicine and medical humanities. To our knowledge, no such curriculum exists at the level of residency training in paediatrics. Residents are constantly being challenged to maintain and develop their empathy in demanding and high stress situations, some common across specialties and some unique to paediatrics. We seek to develop a humanities curriculum for residents training in paediatrics to act as a companion to their mandatory rotations. Input will be sought from participants on appropriate works and an ideal structure to convey this curriculum to our residents.

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10 AM - 11:15 AM in 5181 MERF

Artful grief: writing as healing

Discussion forum

Phil Dwyer

The act of writing is often described as cathartic. In this interactive session, Phil Dwyer (author of *Conversations on Dying*) will explore the notion that an artful approach to grief goes far beyond catharsis. He will propose that the exercise of re-living the occasion of our grief and examining our emotional responses to it promotes healing in the writer (or the artist). To illustrate this proposition Dwyer will use examples taken from his own work: writers were invited to contribute pieces on their experiences (good and bad) with death. Many of them had repressed or concealed these details from friends and family, sometimes for years. Video interviews with the writers who contributed illustrate that, far from wallowing in their grief, or morbidly dwelling on the past, the exercise promoted healing and emotional stability.

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM in MERF Atrium

Break

Take a break, shop for books from our book seller, visit with exhibitors, and meet up with friends new and old.

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM in MERF Atrium

Lunch

12:45 PM - 2 PM in 2117 MERF

Rita Charon: The Shock of Attention--Why Art Is Necessary for Thought

Featured presentation

Rita Charon, MD, PhD (Columbia University Program in Narrative Medicine)

We have worked long enough in fields like health humanities and narrative medicine to know that creative work in health care settings can improve clinicians' self-awareness, enhance team cohesion, decrease burn-out, and expand clinicians' understandings of their patients' situations and perspectives. I am coming also to appreciate that the experience of art is necessary for the very activities of thought. Our experiences of art, using John Dewey's concept of *Art as Experience*, are the obligatory solvents into which the solutes of questions and problems are stirred. Whether Shakespeare, Diane Arbus, Henry James, or Thelonious Monk, our individually chosen encounters with art are what fill our minds' reservoirs so that they can support original, unhinged thought. *This* is why we teach humanities in medical settings—to make thought possible.

The Examined Life: the Writing, Humanities and Arts of Medicine

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2:15 PM - 3:30 PM in 2117 MERF

Science Communication in the Digital Age

Panel discussion

Kayleen Schreiber (University of Iowa), Maria Noterman (University of Iowa), Matt Gilchrist (University of Iowa)

Digital technology has placed a world of knowledge at our fingertips. Along with a vast breadth of content, however, comes misinformation. Scientific and medical communities witness the damage of mass media hypes, such as insufficient understanding of vaccines that persists to this day. Rather than leaving consumers to sift through the web to stumble upon false, misleading, and fear-inducing misinformation, scientists and medical professionals must design strong media strategies to present evidence-based answers. One challenge is to make these answers accurate and understandable. A more important task is to make our messages compelling in order to engage the minds and imaginations of audiences with diverse backgrounds. We will demonstrate the potential of digital platforms to disseminate information while creating engaging storylines. Student work from the University of Iowa's Science Communications in the Digital Age course will be featured as examples, including podcasts, animations, videos and websites.

2:15 PM - 3:30 PM in MERF Atrium (meet at registration desk)

Incunabula in a Medical Context

Rare book display

Donna Hirst MS (University of Iowa)

Incunabula are early printed books, printed from 1450-1500 immediately after the invention of the printing press and moveable type. The 32 incunabula owned by the John Martin Rare Book Room will be on display along with select medieval manuscript facsimiles and volumes from 1500-1520. Volumes will be displayed so you can learn about the volumes and the period. You can page through the volumes and take pictures. Take a stroll through the 15th century and experience the scholarship available to physicians of the time.

2:15 PM - 3:30 PM in 1117 MERF

Rhythms of a Colored Soul

Performance piece

Ericka Merriwether PT, DPT, PhD (University of Iowa)

Spoken word poetry has long been part of the oral tradition in many communities of color. This dynamic literary art form has served as an outlet for social commentary from marginalized groups at key moments in American history. This performance of original pieces aims to lend a voice to a portion of the unique experiences many people of color face, as patients or as medical professionals. These experiences lie at the intersection of poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, religious intolerance, and an intensely fractured relationship with the medical community. Since discussions surrounding these issues are often nebulous and tentative, I hope those who hear these pieces can appreciate and possibly use this form of expression as means of communicating with marginalized groups in their respective areas of medical and research practice.

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3:45 PM - 5 PM in 5181 MERF

The heart wants what it wants: The tale of getting pregnant Against Medical Advice

Reading

Aimee Valeras (NH Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency)

I am a woman with Muscular Dystrophy. The chapter of this story is the one of becoming a mother. I was 12 when I was told unequivocally, “You can never get pregnant. Ever.” Fast-forward fifteen years: I wanted to be pregnant. I wanted to experience what women spoke of when they describe a person moving inside. I wanted to give birth and nurse a baby. This story is about how this desire was perceived and treated by the medical community. Specialists across New England could not engage with me about what it would be like for me to be pregnant. They couldn’t hear my decision-making process; they couldn’t see the gifts of having MD. We weren’t in the same conversation. This is a story about creating a space to have a different kind of conversation and, like the birth process itself, allowing it to unfold without trying to control it.

3:45 PM - 5 PM in 2117 MERF

Give and Take: Parallel Charts - A Reflective Practice

Panel discussion

Deborah Ferraro MSW (New York University), Jeffrey Brensilver MD (Overlook Medical Center/Atlantic Health System), Melissa Nicolas PhD (University of Nevada, Reno), Nancy Gross MMH (Overlook Medical Center/Atlantic Health System), Michelle Neier, MD (Goryeb Children’s Hospital)

We have conducted parallel chart sessions for over seven years in an internal medicine program at a suburban community hospital. We have both faltered and grown in our practice. Our panel discussants, Chief of Medicine / Director, Internal Medicine Residency, Humanities Educator/ Narrative Medicine practitioner, Social Worker/Narrative Medicine practitioner, English professor / rhetorician speak to the challenge and charm of integrating parallel charts into medical training. We discuss the nuts and bolts of setting up and sustaining this work and explore what the experience brings to trainee growth and suggest the impact and implications for research. The panelists each offer expert insights. We will engage the audience in open discussion of this work. Participants will be able to: articulate the components and practice of parallel charts, apply the model to their own environments, and recognize research implications regarding medical resident and student wellbeing and performance.

3:45 PM - 5 PM in 2136 MERF

The Telling Itself: Coaching Writers Through the Craft Problems of Illness

Workshop

Katherine Standefer MFA, ACS (The University of Arizona)

The problems of modern illness are the craft problems of illness narratives. Overly technical language, periods of disorientation, the inextricability of one ailment from the next, and the onerous play-by-plays of treatment can make drafts of illness narratives challenging to read and revise, despite their importance. Though the therapeutic benefits of drafting are well established, in this workshop participants will consider the potential of using literary craft strategies as tools to help them restructure their experiences and restore narrative coherence. Drawing on the lessons of my ongoing work with community-level writers, I’ll share the transformative power of teaching about chronology, scope, framing, and widening the narrative lens, discuss ways to avoid student retraumatization, and explore how a supportive community can help writers see past doctors and medical technology to identify the real hero of their illness narratives: themselves.

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6 PM - 8 PM in The Mill Restaurant, 120 E Burlington St, Iowa City

Attendee Reading

The ever popular attendee reading. Try out new work, or read your oldies but goodies.

If you weren't able to pre-register for the reading, ask for the waiting list.

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Friday, October 7, 2016

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM in MERF Atrium

Light Breakfast

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM in 2136 MERF

Writing as a Healing Tool in Everyday Clinical Practice: The 3-Minute Mental Makeover

Workshop

Cemile "Jemi" Gunalp, David Thoel MD (Advocate Children's Hospital), Jamie Harris MD (Advocate Children's Hospital), Marjorie Getz PhD (Advocate Children's Hospital)

Illness and the modern healthcare system create significant stress for patients, families, doctors, nurses, and other health care providers (HCPs). Writing about traumatic experiences has been shown to provide significant health benefits, including improved blood pressure control, immune function, wound healing, pulmonary function testing, and depression. However, most HCPs and patients do not use writing as a healing tool, and time and resources are limited. We developed a simple 3-minute writing exercise, and have used this tool with patients, families, and HCPs in everyday clinical practice to foster a team approach to illness that facilitates healing. This interactive workshop will include an overview of the health benefits of creative writing. Participants will then practice this writing exercise, gaining proficiency so they can use it in their own clinical situations. Participants will share their writing and brainstorm ways this technique might transform their own clinical practices.

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM in 2117 MERF

Why Doctors Write: Finding Humanity in Medicine: film preview

Discussion forum

Ken Browne (Ken Browne Productions/Center for Independent Documentary)

Why Doctors Write: Finding Humanity in Medicine is a documentary film about the intersection of medicine and literature. It will guide viewers into areas of the medical world where the arts of writing and reflective reading are transforming doctors, medical students, and other healthcare workers. The growing national movement among healthcare professionals to write about clinical experiences, and the use of literature/humanities in medical training, represent a soul-searching response to constraints such as technology, managed care, and burn-out, that fracture doctor-patient bonds as well as the functionality of healthcare teams. The film will showcase "best practices" among writer-doctors, clinical education, and Literature and Medicine workshops at US hospitals and medical schools. The 2016 Examined Life Conference will preview a 10 minute segment of the film, which is planned for a 2017 release on public television and will be screened at medical schools and other venues. A film trailer is here: <https://www.kbprods.com/portfolio/why-doctors-write/>

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8:30 AM - 9:45 AM in 5181 MERF

Creative Writing for Publication - Why does it seem so hard?

Discussion forum

Carol Scott-Conner MD PhD (University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine), Jason T. Lewis (University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine), Bruce P. Brown (University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine)

This is an interactive presentation for those who have written a promising short story, poem, or nonfiction piece and are eager to submit it for publication. Even experienced medical writers may find it daunting to negotiate the world of small literary journals, because the process is slightly different than that associated with peer-reviewed publication. This presentation explores these differences in an interactive fashion. Writers of all levels of experience are welcome, including those who are published and those who are not. Topics will include choice of journal (prestige, how to identify a potential journal), practical considerations of the submission process, contests, dealing with confidentiality, and finding perspective in narratives of your own illness. Potential avenues for publication such as general literary journals, medical humanities journals, and medical journals that publish creative writing will be discussed. Tips for success and common reasons for rejection will be addressed.

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM in 2126 MERF

Speculative Literature, Disability and Health

Reading and Panel discussion

Bogi Takacs (University of Iowa), Rose Lemberg (University of Kansas)

Authors of speculative literature have often attempted to tackle health-related and medical topics, often from an outsider perspective of researchers and doctors. In recent years, there has been an increasing focus on storytelling from the margins, encouraging insiders to tell stories of their own experience. Disability, neurodiversity and chronic illness advocacy are coming into focus in the field of speculative writing, as a part of this wider movement. The two of us have been involved in these currents as authors, as chronically ill and disabled people, and as researchers. We will read from our short-form fiction and poetry relevant to health and disability experience, followed by a discussion with audience participation. Participants will be able to discuss how diverse influences can converge in depictions of disability and illness, and to examine how both personal experience and a research background can enrich genre writing and inform readers about the human condition.

10 AM - 11:15 AM in 2136 MERF

When the Doctor is the Patient: Exploring the Role of Empathy, Compassion, and Literature in Healing

Reading

Kristin Seaborg MD (Group Health Cooperative)

In 2003, in the middle of my second year of pediatric residency, I had a right temporal lobectomy for treatment of medically refractory epilepsy. Although the skill of my surgeon and medical team was excellent, it was the small things that my medical team did beyond textbook medicine that made a lasting impact on my healing. The empathy and compassion I experienced during my post-surgical period and as I continue to live with epilepsy have not only helped me but changed my perspective on practicing medicine. In 2009, I started writing a memoir about my experiences living with epilepsy as a physician. My book, *The Sacred Disease: My Life with Epilepsy* was published by Booktrope in 2015. Through writing my book, I started to view and understand my experiences with chronic illness with more clarity. Writing and processing my experiences has helped me cope with constant vulnerability and chronic disease.

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10 AM - 11:15 AM in 2117 MERF

Flowers for the Waiting Room, Flores para la Sala de Espera

Lecture, Art Workshop, Call for Participation, Visual Art Display

Marguerite Perret (Washburn University), Teresita Noemi González (Museo del Barro), Bruce Scherting (University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics)

"Flowers for the Waiting Room" is a collaborative project currently extending across three continents. Based in the U.S. Midwest with partners in Paraguay and China, the project explores narratives around the themes of healthcare access and lived experiences with illness through the perspectives of patients, their families and friends, healthcare providers and the general public. A variety of paper flowers, petals, stems and leaves representing native or culturally significant species are made available in public spaces at healthcare centers. Participants are invited to share their stories through written word, drawing and collage, customizing and combining the floral forms to create unique blossoms. The collected content will be represented in scholarly publications, an artist's book and an art installation, which will convert the paper flowers into porcelain. The goal of the project is to give voice to, collect, share, and compare attitudes around healthcare through various personal and societal lenses.

10 AM - 11:15 AM in 1117 MERF

Writing About Mental Illness

Workshop

Jeanne Bereiter MD (University of New Mexico School of Medicine)

In this workshop we will explore the connection between mental illness and creativity, and look at the effect of mental illness on the lives of people living with mental illness, their family members, and healthcare professionals. We will read and discuss some of the wonderful literature written about mental illness by poets and writers with lived experience of mental illness such as Anne Sexton, Jane Kenyon, and William Styron. Participants will write a reflection (in poetry or prose) about a personal experience with mental illness—as a healthcare provider, family member, or consumer. Participants will share their reflections and we will look at the ways sharing stories illuminates and helps to destigmatize mental illness.

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM in MERF Atrium

Break

Take a break, shop for books from our book seller, visit with exhibitors, and meet up with friends new and old.

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM in MERF Atrium

Lunch

12:45 PM - 2 PM in 2117 MERF

Bud Shaw: Writing About It--How Can a Surgeon Quit

Featured presentation

Byers "Bud" Shaw, MD

Randomized controlled trials have shown the various mental and physical benefits of reflective writing. Can it help a surgeon find happiness after quitting?

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2:15 PM - 3:30 PM in 1117 MERF

Examining the Lives of Patients with Dementia through Music Therapy

Panel discussion

Alaine Reschke-Hernandez MA, MT-BC (The University of Iowa), Meghan Ross MT-BC (The University of Iowa)

By the year 2030, more than 7 million elderly Americans are expected to live with Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia. Cognitive decline undermines these individuals' functional abilities and life quality, and caregiving can be overwhelming and challenging. While pharmacological interventions have provided little real impact in addressing the needs of these patients, a growing number of clinical papers and research studies indicate music therapy can promote prosocial behaviors, some forms of memory, and quality of life. In this presentation, two board-certified music therapists discuss their experiences with this population and briefly review differences between music therapy and other music interventions popularized in the media. They illustrate music therapy research with their clinical experiences, explain how music therapists address the needs of these individuals, and discuss how they work to complement standard dementia care. The presenters also offer information regarding their current research with this population.

2:15 PM - 3:30 PM in 2117 MERF

California Medical Schools for the Medical and Health Humanities: A Student Panel

Panel discussion

Barbara Lam (Keck School of Medicine of USC), Jackie Ngo MS (University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine), Jonathan Chou MS (Keck School of Medicine of USC), Shella Raja (University of California Irvine School of Medicine), Tamar Walker, (Keck School of Medicine of USC)

The medical and health humanities are increasing in popularity in medical schools. Driven by a diversifying medical student body and increasing research that demonstrates the benefits of a multidisciplinary curriculum, schools around the nation have implemented the humanities into their curriculums. Student groups contribute to the presence and influence of the humanities on campuses, but their role often goes unrecognized. For the first time, this panel brings together medical and health humanities interest group leaders from medical schools in California to discuss the state of the medical and health humanities on their campuses from the student's perspective. The represented schools include the Keck School of Medicine of USC, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Stanford University School of Medicine, and UCSF School of Medicine. This panel will serve as a forum for discussing the influence of students on medical humanities initiatives, and serve as a nidus for further collaboration.

2:15 PM - 3:30 PM in 2136 MERF

Medical Creative Work: Gaining a Voice

Reading

Joanna White (Central Michigan University)

My frightening childhood medical experiences make it difficult for me to deal with medical events as an adult, but I have found writing about both helps to calm the inner turmoil and gives me a voice, not only in the moment, but in the growing medical humanities conversation. Most of these works (poems, a couple of short fiction pieces, and several water colors) have been published in journals, including *The Examined Life Journal*, *Ars Medica*, and *Pulse*. Some of the works detail more traditional medical experiences from child and adult points of view, though some deal with a music-career-threatening malady. I celebrate the occasional spark of kindness and humanity in a medical provider, while exploring the helpless feeling of having no voice, the longing to have a voice, and the benefit of gaining one.

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2:15 PM - 3:30 PM in 5181 MERF

How Healthcare Providers Can Learn to Love Uncertainty – Through Writing

Panel discussion

Anna Reisman MD (Yale University), Audrey Young MD (EvergreenHealth), Doris Iarovici MD (Duke University Counseling and Psychological Services), Maggie Leffler MD (Allegheny Health Network)

As physicians, we are expected to quickly and precisely solve problems during every patient interaction, even when there is no clear solution or cure. Diagnoses are often unclear, test results ambiguous, and communication with patients can be anything but straightforward. Medicine, in fact, is rife with uncertainty. Perhaps this is why more and more healthcare providers are making writing – where uncertainty offers much food for thought on the human condition - a part of their lives. In this session, we'll talk about how writing benefits healthcare providers, both personally as well as in interactions with patients. Four physician-authors discuss how writing fiction and nonfiction has helped transform their understanding of themselves and their patients and increased their comfort with uncertainty.

3:45 PM - 5 PM in 5181 MERF

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Using Creative Modalities in Work with Healthcare Professionals & Marginalized Populations

Workshop

Josephine Ensign PhD (University of Washington), Suzanne Edison MA (University of Washington)

The use of creative writing, visual, and dramatic arts in work with marginalized patients, their families, and healthcare providers has been increasing in recent years. But how do we know if what we are doing is effective? How can we build better and sustainable evaluation methods into our teaching? Drawing upon both the research literature and our combined experience teaching reflective practice to homeless and marginalized populations, their family members, and health science students/providers, we present a best practices/evaluation tool-kit. Participants will learn how to process the evaluation feedback (emotional and cognitive information) and discern how to keep or adapt methods for future iterations of the course. Participants will engage in several creative exercises that include writing and visual arts. They will then have a chance to practice teaching and evaluation techniques in small groups.

3:45 PM - 5 PM in 2126 MERF

Creatively Aging: Designing arts programming for persons with memory loss

Lecture

Anne Mondro MFA (University of Michigan)

Within the healthcare community, creativity has the power to transcend illness. It enables people to retain their sense of self and explore who they are as unique individuals. For persons with memory loss, creativity provides the opportunity for expression and to share their life history with others, reminding us all of the person in the 'person with memory loss.' Using University of Michigan Professor Anne Mondro's course, Memory, Aging & Expressive Arts as a model, the presentation will focus on developing one's sensitivity and understanding toward those experiencing changes in memory through shared art experiences. The presentation will address ways to design and foster meaningful collaborative art experiences for persons with memory loss that invite discussion and an exchange of knowledge through imagination, experimentation, and discovery. The presentation will also focus on the arts as a support network to maintain and improve one's quality of life during memory loss.

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3:45 PM - 5 PM in 1117 MERF

Show, Don't Tell: Using Poetry and Music To Connect With Your Audience

Performance piece

Robert Schwab MD (Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Allen)

Presentations in medical humanities are largely designed to impart knowledge about the value of art in the professional development of physicians. While many of these presentations are persuasive, relatively few capitalize on art as a vehicle for creating an emotional connection to students that will convince them of the value of the material as well as the underlying assumptions about the power of art. This presentation will present original poetry set to familiar tunes that were created to complement specific presentations. The audience will participate in deconstructing the poems to better understand how the elements of poetry work to enhance the emotional connection to educational material.

3:45 PM - 5 PM in 2117 MERF

Art of the Edit: A conversation with four writer-editors

Panel discussion

Anna Reisman MD (Yale University), Audrey Young MD (EvergreenHealth), Caroline Wellbery MD (Georgetown University), Carol Scott-Conner (University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine)

This panel discussion will explore the push and pull between writing and editing, especially for healthcare providers. Discussants are doctors, writers, and editors from several medical journals that publish humanities features. Panelists will discuss how both writers and editors recognize and shape stories. We'll talk about when writers should turn on their inner editor, what editors look for in the initial manuscript evaluation, and common changes that occur between initial submission and publication. We will address what causes us to say "no" immediately, and touch on common ethical issues when writing about patients.

6 PM - 7:30 PM in Hotel Vetro Conference Center, Iowa City

Leslie Jamison: The Open Courtyard--Possibilities of the Personal

Featured presentation

Leslie Jamison

Personal writing gets accused of being many things: solipsistic, narcissistic, claustrophobic, apolitical, sentimental, self-serving, or all of the above. In this talk, I'll think about how personal writing can move beyond the parameters and particulars of an individual life in order to seek broader resonances. How can personal experience be deployed in the service of broader questions? How can it *not*? How can narratives interweave personal experience with other kinds of inquiry—like criticism and reportage? What are the ethical and aesthetic complexities of blending these modes? How can formal innovation open individual narratives outward in compelling ways? How can individual narratives help to shape and sustain communities?

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM in Hotel Vetro Conference Center, Iowa City

Reception

The Examined Life: the Writing, Humanities and Arts of Medicine

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Saturday, October 8, 2016

8 AM - 9 AM in MERF Atrium

Light breakfast

9 AM - 10:15 AM in 1117 MERF

The Build-A-Medical-Humanities-Workshop Workshop

Workshop

Doug Hester (Vanderbilt University Medical Center), Stephen Harvey (Vanderbilt University Medical Center)

Attendees will spend the session planning a workshop for use at their home institution. Logistics, resources, formats, and follow-up will be addressed with a granularity allowing attendees to implement a session appropriate for any range of writer (from the "just interested" to the MFA graduate) after leaving Iowa City. We will flow through each aspect needed, brainstorming ideas and discussing challenges, in order to craft a succinct, detailed plan. Anyone (regardless of professional status or writing skills) can translate the plan created into a vibrant workshop at home.

9 AM - 10:15 AM in 2126 MERF

The role of music in healing, building civilization, global community, and tying us to the natural world

lecture/discussion/interactive session

Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig (University of Florida)

Music is described as the universal language- a means of communicating across culture. Neuroscientist Daniel Levitin claimed that civilization was impossible without music. Neurologist Oliver Sacks said, "Music can have the same effect on the neurologically impaired. It may have a power beyond anything else to restore them to themselves..." Nigerian musician Fela Kuti claimed, "Music cannot be for enjoyment, music has to be for revolution." Are these statements true? How does music operate in the brain and how can it bring people together? How is it used to heal? Through a number of audio and video clips and discussion, this session will explore music function in the brain, how it helps restore memory, ties us to the natural world, is part of healing ceremonies, can facilitate communication and create global community. Finally, we will explore how modern African musicians use their music to heal problems in their societies.

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9 AM - 10:15 AM in 2117 MERF

Writing Diabetes: The Composition and Rhetoric of Illness Essays

Panel discussion

Jennifer Houchins, Jennifer Claytor (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Jennifer Stockwell (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Sarah Singer (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

The Writing Diabetes Project was developed by an interdisciplinary research team in order to learn about the relationship between the process of writing and how individuals with diabetes manage their condition. This study involved conducting an 8-week writing workshop in Chapel Hill, NC. In the workshop, we approached writing as a generative and shared endeavor that requires attention and practice. The first panelist will present on the development of the project and the workshop curriculum, which emphasized writing techniques based on the five rhetorical canons: invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery. Then, a participant from the study will share a selection from their narrative along with their experience of being in the workshop. The third panelist will review the initial findings from our study. Lastly, the final panelist will discuss the implications of our study for healthcare providers--namely, how writing can facilitate humanistic medical practice and enhance patient coherence.

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM in 2126 MERF

Digging deeper: Medical Students' and their experiences identifying with their patients

Panel discussion

Amr El Bokl (University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine), John Pienta (University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine)

Medical students often get involved in experiences in healthcare in which they identify with their patients. We will explore these relationships in discussion and tell about our healthcare experiences as we grow into our identity as physicians and as humans.

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM in 1117 MERF

Safety AND Craft – Writing in Groups using the AWA Method

Workshop

Susan Reynolds BSc (AWA Canada)

Thirty years ago Dr. James Pennebaker's research into the benefits of written disclosure started a wave of health research based on Expressive Writing. The protocol for that research involved individuals writing alone, their output unwitnessed except by their own eyes. The findings from the research were impressive. However the outcomes of writing in groups using a specific protocol may be even more impressive allowing for social as well as personal growth. The Amherst Writers & Artists Method (AWA) of facilitating writers in groups has been used with groups of writers in the general populations as well as in a great many workshops in marginalized or silenced populations. The method relies on 5 deceptively simple practices. Research has demonstrated that writing in a group using this specific approach can facilitate emotional catharsis, increased self-knowledge, coping strategies, as well as an understanding and appreciating of others.

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10:30 AM - 11:45 AM in 2136 MERF

Care beyond Cure: depicting the pain narratives of patients undergoing palliative care in Kerala, India

Reading

Aparna Ajjarapu (University of Iowa)

In 2015, Pallium India hosted fifteen University of Iowa students to see their award winning work in providing palliative care in Kerala, India. Moving beyond curing a disease, palliative care treats all aspects of pain in patients with serious illness. Pain relief is a challenge in Kerala: until the 1990s, morphine was unavailable and is still very difficult to obtain in many parts of the country. During the three weeks in Kerala, I shadowed the Pallium India team on home visits and in clinics as they treated patients with serious illness. We obtained permission from six patients to record their pain narratives in Malayalam and translated them into English. The six patients in these narratives share the impact that morphine, palliative care and pain has had on their lives. In this reading, I share the narratives that were depicted and reflect on the impact these narratives have had on me.

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM in 2117 MERF

Writing Poetry From Pain: Phenomena of the Body

Panel discussion, Reading

Christine Stewart PhD (South Dakota State University), Jodi Andrews (South Dakota State University), Leah Alsaker (South Dakota State University)

Where do the boundaries of the mind and body—however philosophically false—dissolve? Where is the place for tactile, physical sensations of pain in poetry? These three poets will read from their manuscripts as well as discuss what their creative processes taught them about writing the body. The first, from her new book *I Don't Actually Know*, will speak to the ways recurrent miscarriage shaped her handling of physical and mental interiority; the second will read from her work that explores Chronic Migraine Syndrome; and the third will read pieces that take up her melanoma diagnosis and more recent brush with its resurgence. These poets argue that the re-narrating of these experiences in verse serve to transform the physical body as well as the emotional one.

12 PM - 1 PM in MERF Atrium

Lunch

The Examined Life: the Writing, Humanities and Arts of Medicine

Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM in 2126 MERF

Voices in the Chart: Repersonalizing healthcare with the VA's My Life, My Story program

Reading followed by discussion forum.

Thor Ringler MS, MFA (William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital)

“What’s your story?” “What would you like your healthcare provider to know about you as a person?” These are the kinds of questions we’ve been asking patients at the Madison VA hospital since 2013. We’ve interviewed over 1,000 veterans, written up their stories, reviewed the stories with them, and added the final version to their medical record. We’ve also started asking VA providers the same questions. When veterans come in for their annual physical they now have the option to read their provider’s story. During the presentation we will read stories from veterans and VA providers and describe the interviewing/writing process. We’ll also ask the audience what happens when providers and patients start sharing their stories with each other.

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM in 1117 MERF

The Holiday Lights Approach: Telling the Story Beyond the Experience

Workshop

Philip Weitl (Doane College)

In *The Situation and the Story: The Art of Personal Narrative*, Vivian Gornick writes, "Every work of literature has both a situation and a story. The situation is the context or circumstance, sometimes the plot; the story is the emotional experience that preoccupies the writer: the insight, the wisdom, the thing one has come to say." What does she mean? It is an arduous task to seek the extraordinary in the ordinary, to build something interesting from the flotsam and jetsam of everyday life, as nonfiction writers so often do. It is no less challenging to write about interesting things like traumas and tragedies, because the meaning is not inherent in the event. The writer’s job is to find it by moderating the conversation between his narrative and reflective voices. This workshop will explore this process and introduce a helpful technique for transforming events and experiences into compelling narrative.

2:30 PM

Adjourn

The Examined Life: the Writing, Humanities and Arts of Medicine

Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA

Speakers

Leslie Jamison

Leslie Jamison is an extraordinarily gifted writer whose work has been called at once “profound” and “intellectual” and then “poetic” and “philosophical.” Her most recent book, a collection of essays called *The Empathy Exams*, was named one of the best books of the year by NPR, *The New York Times* and *Publishers Weekly*. In their review *The Boston Globe* called the book “a brilliant collection” and *The Huffington Post* declared that Leslie “seems poised for greatness; don’t miss out.” <http://www.lesliejamison.com/>

Rita Charon

Columbia University Program in Narrative Medicine

Rita Charon, MD, PhD, is Professor of Clinical Medicine and Director of the Program in Narrative Medicine at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. A general internist with a primary care practice in Presbyterian Hospital, Dr. Charon took a Ph.D. in English when she realized how central is storytelling and listening to stories to the work of doctors and patients. She directs the Humanities and Medicine curriculum for P&S and teaches literature, narrative ethics, and medical interviewing. She is editor-in-chief of the journal *Literature and Medicine* and Principal Investigator on research projects that study patient-physician communication and the outcomes of narrative training for medical students and health professionals. Her work in narrative medicine has been recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American College of Physicians, the Society for Health and Human Values, and the Society of General Internal Medicine. She is the recipient of a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Residence and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. She has published and lectured extensively on the ways in which narrative training helps to increase empathy and reflection in health professionals and students. She is co-editor of *Stories Matter: The Role of Narrative in Medical Ethics*. <http://www.cumc.columbia.edu>

Byers "Bud" Shaw

Born in 1950, Bud Shaw grew up the oldest child of a general surgeon in rural south central Ohio. He graduated with an AB in Chemistry from Kenyon College in 1972 and received his MD degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in 1976. In 1981, he completed a surgery residency at the University of Utah, then trained in Pittsburgh under Tom Starzl, the father of liver transplantation. An internationally renowned transplant surgeon by age 35, Shaw left Pittsburgh in 1985 to start a new transplant program in Nebraska that quickly became one of the most respected transplant centers in the world. An author of 300 journal articles, 50 book chapters, and a founding editor of the prestigious journal, *Liver Transplantation*, he retired from active practice and the department chairmanship in 2009, and now focuses on writing, teaching and the value of narrative studies in medical education and clinical practice. His prize-winning essay, *My Night With Ellen Hutchinson*, published in *Creative Nonfiction Magazine*, was nominated for a 2013 Pushcart Prize and received Special Mention. The father of three adult children, Shaw lives with his wife, novelist Rebecca Rotert (Shaw) in the wooded hills north of Omaha, Nebraska. <http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com>

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Aparna Ajjarapu

University of Iowa

Aparna Ajjarapu is an undergraduate student at the University of Iowa with an aspiration to become a physician. She became passionate about the human elements of disease while studying pain and palliative care in Kerala, India. She is also very passionate about science, research and communication and is currently conducting research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UIHC. She is actively involved in multiple human rights awareness groups on campus and enjoys advising fellow undergrads as an ICRU research Ambassador and Honors Peer Advisor. She cites Maya Angelou and Atul Gawande as some of her role models.

Leah Alsaker

South Dakota State University

Leah Alsaker is a creative writing graduate student at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She recently graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in English Education, where her creative and scholarly work won department and university-wide awards. Her work has been published in *Oakwood*, *Pasque Petals*, and *South Dakota Magazine*.

Jodi Andrews

South Dakota State University

Jodi Andrews is a graduate student in English at South Dakota State University working on a thesis titled "Everything My Skin Can Feel." Her work has appeared in the literary magazine *Oakwood*. She is a cancer survivor interested in the intersections of poetry and illness.

Jeanne Bereiter

University of New Mexico School of Medicine

Jeanne Bereiter, MD is a child and adolescent and general psychiatrist and Clinical Associate Professor at the University Of New Mexico School Of Medicine where she also teaches writing for medical students, residents, and faculty. She has a background in rural family medicine and in creative writing. She is interested in the use of narrative to deepen understanding and has published personal and medical narratives in medical and literary journals including *JAMA*, the *Examined Life Journal*, and *Hektoen International*. She co-leads the Taos Writing and Wellness Retreat for Health Professionals every August. www.taoswritingretreat.com

Jeffrey Brensilver, MD

Overlook Medical Center/Atlantic Health System

Jeffrey Brensilver is chair and program director of the Department of Medicine at Overlook Medical Center. His approach to medical education blends mentoring with pathophysiologic reasoning and emphasizes interpersonal communication skill development and reflectiveness training . His educational philosophy consists of deep knowledge of general internal medicine which defines the consummate internal medicine physician, enabling her to guide patients through medical, psychological and spiritual crises. He participates daily in report and rounds. He ensures that residents gain experience in ethics, palliative care, medical humanities and mindfulness practice. He has published widely and works directly with residents on their scholarly projects.

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Bruce Brown

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Bruce P. Brown MD is the founding editor-in-chief and the current editor-in-chief of The Examined Life Journal: A Literary Journal of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. His literary work has appeared in The Annals of Internal Medicine, Kalends and Hospital Drive. He is an emeritus radiologist and internist at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa.

Ken Browne

Ken Browne Productions/Center for Independent Documentary

Ken Browne has been an Emmy award-winning producer in NYC for 25 years, producing documentaries about education, health issues, sports, and the arts. His work on PBS includes Mondays at Skimmilk: 30 Years of Writers at Work. Look! I'm in College! about four African American young men with autism, who attend college, earned the 2010 Paul Robeson Award for Best Short Documentary at the Newark Black Film Festival. Ken Browne Productions has served clients, with digital stories about the success of schools, community-based non-profits, and governmental agencies. More about Ken Browne can be found at: www.kbprods.com

Lauren Choi

The George Washington University

Dr. Lauren Choi's love of humanities began at Wellesley College, where she studied Philosophy with particular interest in medical ethics. She received her medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine. Currently a second-year internal medicine resident at GW, she became an editor of Cuentos during her intern year because she wanted to encourage her peers to express themselves artistically and become more introspective in their professional encounters.

Jonathan Chou

Keck School of Medicine of USC

Jonathan Chou is an M.D. candidate at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. He holds a B.A. in English with Honors from Brown University and an M.S. in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University. His interests lie in issues of embodiment, narrative ethics, and how creative writing can enrich medical education and practice. At Keck, he is conducting research on the feasibility and efficacy of creative nonfiction writing workshops with medical students and patients with HIV. He is co-president of the Medical Humanities Interest Group and Psychiatry Student Interest Group. He was born in Los Angeles and raised in Taiwan.

Jennifer Claytor

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jennifer is a third-year medical student at UNC interested in Internal Medicine. As an undergraduate at Yale, Jennifer wrote her senior thesis on expressions of pain in Russian literature. Then, in 2012, she received a masters in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University. Prior to medical school, she worked as a research assistant for UNC's Department of Social Medicine on a grant to incorporate humanities and science & technology studies topics into medical curricula. Jennifer was the 2015 recipient of the Alan Cross Social Medicine Award.

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Caroline Diorio

McMaster Children's Hospital

Caroline Diorio is a paediatrics resident at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton. She completed her medical school at the University of Toronto, where she was exposed to a humanities companion curriculum and participated in a literature and medicine reading group.

Phil Dwyer

Phil Dwyer's journalism, essays, travel writing, and fiction have been published in over fifteen international titles, including *The Financial Times*, *The Times* (of London), and the *Globe and Mail*. In 2014, his short story *Allergies Stephanie*, placed first in a short story contest judged by Canadian short story writer Sarah Selecky. He is an alumnus of the Humber School for Writers. He lives in Toronto. In 2013, he started working with Dr. Larry Librach on a palliative care project, which evolved into *Conversations On Dying* (to be published by Dundurn in April 2016).

Suzanne Edison

University of Washington

Suzanne Edison is a poet, educator and mother of a child with a chronic illness. She has led writing workshops for families and medical professionals on the effects of chronic illness on families at Seattle Children's Hospital, NIH, and at the Cure JM Foundation's national conferences. Her work appears in *Ars Medica*, Fall 2014; *The Healing Art of Writing, Vol. 1*; *The Examined Life Literary Journal*; *Blood and Thunder: Musings on the Art of Medicine*; and *Face to Face: Women Writers on Faith, Mysticism and Awakening*. Her chapbook, *The Moth Eaten World* was published in June 2014. www.seedison.com is her website.

Amr ElBokl

University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Josephine Ensign

University of Washington

Josephine Ensign is a writer and nurse. She teaches health policy and health humanities at the University of Washington in Seattle. Her essays have appeared in *The Sun*, *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, *Pulse: Voices From the Heart of Medicine*, *Silk Road*, *The Intima*, *The Examined Life Journal*, *Johns Hopkins Public Health Magazine*, and in the anthology: *I Wasn't Strong Like This When I Started Out: True Stories of Becoming a Nurse* edited by Lee Gutkind. 'Greyhound Therapy' is based on a chapter from her book, *Catching Homelessness: A Nurse's Story of Falling Through the Safety Net* (She Writes Press, August 2016).

Deborah Ferraro

New York University

Deborah Ferraro is a graduate of the Master of Social Work program at New York University. A writer and editor with training in narrative medicine through advanced workshops at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and an apprenticeship at Overlook Medical Center, she has facilitated narrative medicine sessions at Overlook Medical Center, Bellevue Hospital / NYU Langone Medical Center, Atlantic Hospice summer program for grieving children, and *Imagine*, a Center for Coping with Loss in Westfield, NJ.

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Marjorie Getz

Advocate Children's Hospital

Marjorie Getz, is Co-Director of Narrative Medicine at Advocate Children's Hospital in Chicago. She co-directs the Narrative Medicine group at her hospital, and works collaboratively with pediatric residents, Child Life, Pastoral Care, Psychology, music therapy, palliative care. The group meets monthly, using writing, music, meditation and relaxation exercises to promote healing. She is also a learning and behavior specialist at ACH. In 1984 she established Educational Consultation and Evaluation Services, in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Behavioral Pediatrics, with a specialty in testing and school advocacy for children with complex medical conditions.

Matt Gilchrist

University of Iowa

Matt Gilchrist is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He is a lecturer in the Rhetoric Department at the University of Iowa, where he directs Iowa Digital Engagement and Learning (IDEAL).

Teresita Noemi González

Facultad de Ciencias Médicas Universidad Nacional de Asunción

Teresita Noemi González is a documentary photographer, fine artist and biochemist based in Asunción, Paraguay. She earned a doctorate specializing in biochemical clinical analysis and practiced at the Hospitals de Clínicas (Sajonia), Asuncion, Paraguay, for 20 years. Following relocation of the Hospital to a neighboring town in 2012, she decided to devote herself to art, cultural development and the repurposing of the historic original hospital building into a medical museum where she now serves as the Associate Director. Her documentary and creative photography blend art, science and concerns around public health. The photo essay "CHARITY HOSPITAL" exhibited at the Museo del Barro (Asuncion, Paraguay) in 2008 raised awareness about community health issues and services. More recently she completed a project about water health and safety. González has participated in numerous group shows, and coordinates international artist workshops and seminars, and other cultural exchange programs that promote art in Paraguay.

Nancy Gross

Overlook Medical Center/Atlantic Health System

Nancy Gross is the humanities educator at Overlook Medical Center. She has developed narrative programs for medical students and residents, senior clinicians, patients, care partners and community members. The programs' emphasis is to evoke stories of illness and nurture reflective practice. Her sustained work illuminates the voices of patients, families and clinicians as they intersect at the time of illness. She facilitates Literature and Medicine seminars to provoke conversation around medical themes and the human condition. She has worked with stroke patients, people living with Parkinson's disease and those living with memory loss. She encourages people to tell their stories.

Cemile "Jemi" Gunalp

Russell Research Institute at Advocate Children's Hospital, Chicago Medical School

I am from San Diego, CA. I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. I majored in Biology and coxed for the men's rowing team there. Following university, I joined Teach for America and worked as a high school physics and chemistry teacher for two years in Atlanta, GA. I then taught at an elementary school in Santa Cruz, CA for a year before beginning medical school in Chicago, IL. I am now a second year medical student at the Chicago Medical School.

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Jamie Harris

Advocate Children's Hospital

Jamie Harris is currently a resident in pediatrics at Advocate Children's Hospital in Chicago. A soon to be father, Jamie is eager to find balance between the expected stress of residency and parenthood. He expects to have little sleep. Relaxation finds him when he draws, plays soccer, and creatively writes.

Stephen Harvey

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Stephen Harvey, MD, is a physician-poet who has published poems and essays in journals such as JAMA, Measure, and Linebreak.

Doug Hester

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Doug Hester is an academic anesthesiologist who lives in Nashville, TN, with his wife, daughter, and Doberman. He is also pursuing a low-residency MFA in poetry and has published in The Examined Life Journal, JAMA, and CHEST. Much of his academic work seeks to connect the humanities with medicine.

Donna Hirst

University of Iowa

Donna Hirst received a Masters in Public Health from the University of Oklahoma and a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Iowa. She has been the Curator of the John Martin Rare Book Room since 2010, and previously worked in Information Technology at the University of Iowa Libraries and at the Law Library. She Coordinates the University's History of Medicine Society. As Curator she teaches classes through the use of rare materials and works with the Conservation Lab to nurture the collection.

Jennifer Houchins

Jennifer is a thirty-something uber-geek-girl who plays software engineer by day and blogger by night. Jennifer can neither confirm nor deny that she gets distracted easily but she does like shiny objects, most notably in the form of bicycles and/or automobiles. For 26 years, Jennifer has been living with Type 1 Diabetes which can make life challenging in every respect. More recently, Jennifer has decided that despite her chronic illness, she can become an amateur athlete because having an active lifestyle helps make managing her illness much easier. Jennifer writes about her experiences in her blog, Too Sweet Athlete.

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Doris Iarovici

Duke University Counseling and Psychological Services

Doris Iarovici is a psychiatrist and writer. Her fiction collection, "American Dreaming and Other Stories," won the Novello Literary Award and other publishing honors. She's been awarded the *Crab Orchard Review's* Jack Dyer Prize, and nominated for a Pushcart. She has been a Writing Fellow at VCCA, Vermont Studio Center, and Wildacres. The recipient of a Durham Arts Council Emerging Artist Grant, she's also received fiction scholarships to the Sewanee and Wesleyan Writers' Conferences. Her book "Mental Health Issues and the University Student" was published in 2014. Her essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and elsewhere.

Barbara Lam

Keck School of Medicine of USC

Barbara Lam is an M.D. candidate at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, where she co-founded the Medical Humanities Interest Group. She graduated from The Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in creative writing and has worked as a writer and editor for various publications including The Johns Hopkins News-Letter and the Madison newspaper Isthmus.

Mason LaMarche

University of Iowa

Mason LaMarche is a junior undergraduate Biomedical Sciences major at the University of Iowa. He serves on the College Student Leader Board for volunteers at UIHC. He is also the co-founder and financial director of the Global Brigades Student Interest Organization which focuses on raising awareness and funding for poor, rural villages in Honduras. Mason also has 11 years of formal musical training in many disciplines including piano, vocals, and dance. He continues to compose original pieces for vocals and piano. He plans to attend medical school following his undergraduate education.

Maggie Leffler

Allegheny Health Network

Maggie Leffler is a family medicine physician and writer. Her first novel, *The Diagnosis of Love*, was called "an inspiring debut" by *Publisher's Weekly*. She is also the author of *The Goodbye Cousins* published by Bantam Books (2009), and *The Secrets of Flight*, published by HarperCollins (William Morrow) in 2016. She practices medicine with Allegheny Health Network in Pittsburgh, PA, where she lives with her husband and sons. Visit the author at www.MaggieLeffler.com.

Rose Lemberg

University of Kansas

Rose Lemberg is a queer immigrant writer from Eastern Europe. Rose's SFF writing has appeared in Lightspeed's Queer Destroy Science Fiction, Strange Horizons, Beneath Ceaseless Skies, Interfictions, Uncanny, and other venues. Rose's works have been nominated for the Nebula award, won the Rannu competition, placed in the Rhysling award, and appeared on the Tiptree Longlist, among other honors. Rose's debut poetry collection, MARGINALIA TO STONE BIRD, is available from Aqueduct Press (2016). Rose is a sociolinguist and a professor at the University of Kansas. You can visit Rose online at <http://troselemborg.net>.

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Jason T. Lewis

University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Jason T. Lewis, MFA, is graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He is the director of the Writing and Humanities Program at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. In that capacity he is the managing editor for *The Examined Life Journal*, co-director and co-founder of the CCOM Humanities Distinction Track and Personal/Professional Compass Program. He is the director of The Examined Life Conference and teaches creative writing courses to students at the Carver College of Medicine. His writing has been featured in many publications and his first novel, *The Fourteenth Colony: a novel with music*, is available at amazon.com. He's currently finishing work on a second novel, *The Crack in the World*.

Ericka Merriwether

University of Iowa

Dr. Ericka Merriwether, PT, DPT, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Research Scholar at the University of Iowa. Dr. Merriwether's current research explores the impact of regular physical activity on pain and quality of life in women with fibromyalgia. She has had featured spoken word performances like "Words" at The Second City Chicago, the MOJA Arts Festival in Charleston, SC, the ArtHaus and Luther College in Decorah, IA. She is currently a member of the Soul Vibe Poetry Collective, and former member of the Poetic Jazz Society of Charleston. She has also won a slam at the Green Mill in Chicago, IL.

Anne Mondro

University of Michigan

Anne Mondro is an artist and professor at University of Michigan (U-M) Stamps School of Art & Design. She designs and conducts courses, programming, and research focusing on creative aging. Partnering with U-M Geriatrics Center, her work promotes learning through shared art experiences. She received the 2015 Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Award in Creative Expression for her course Memory, Aging & Expressive Art. Mondro has presented at the 5th International Arts and Health Conference in Sydney, Life With Dementia 2014: Relations in Sweden, 25th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Slovenia, and 2015 American Society on Aging conference.

Michelle Neier, MD

Goryeb Children's Hospital

Michelle Neier is an attending physician at Goryeb Children's Hospital in the Valerie Fund Children's Center, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Atlantic Health. She graduated from Union College before attending Albany Medical College. She completed her fellowship in Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation at NY Presbyterian – Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital. She is involved in parallel chart sessions for the pediatric residents at Goryeb Children's Hospital and has been an active member of the Literature and Medicine sessions held at Overlook Medical Center.

Jackie Ngo

University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine

Jackie is a first-year medical student at UCLA. She earned a Master's degree in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University after studying psychology at UC Berkeley.

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Melissa Nicolas

University of Nevada, Reno

Melissa Nicolas has a Ph.D. in English from the Ohio State University. She is Associate Professor of English at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her research focuses on narrative and the creation of identities. She is currently investigating ways patients and doctors talk/listen to each other. She is the editor of two books: *By Any Other Name: Writing Groups Inside and Outside the Classroom* (co-editor) and *Emerging Identities*. Her work has appeared in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Education* and other journals and books. Her most recent article is "Writing the Body: A Feminist Perspective on Surgical Scars."

Maria Noterman

Univeristy of Iowa

Maria Noterman is a PhD student in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Neuroscience. Her research investigates a gene in the brain that has been implicated in several psychiatric disorders. Maria also holds an interest in science communications an has recently started blogging at mnotesblog.wordpress.com.

Malgorzata Nowaczyk

McMaster Children's Hospital

Malgorzata (Margaret) Nowaczyk is a pediatrician and a clinical geneticist. She is a Professor of Pathology and Molecular Medicine at McMaster University and DeGroot School of Medicine in Hamilton, Ontario. Her writing has appeared in *Geist Magazine*, *The Examined Life Journal*, and *Canadian Medical Association Journal* and has been translated into Polish and German; she has a short story scheduled to appear in the literary magazine *Prairie Fire*. She lives in Hamilton with her husband and two sons.

Faryal Osman

The George Washington University

Dr. Faryal Osman hails from the great state of Michigan, where she attended the University of Michigan for undergraduate school. After having moved to D.C. for a health policy internship, she fell in love with the city and decided to stay for medical school as well as residency, both at GW. She is currently a 3rd-year internal medicine resident and was an editor of both *Cuentos* 2015 and 2016.

Marguerite Perret

Washburn University

Marguerite Perret's arts-based research and social issue engaged studio practice explores the promise, complications and sometimes contradictory narratives inherent at the interstices of art, science, healthcare and personal experience. To this end, she collaborates with other artists, scientists, writers, public agencies, museums and medical professionals. She is the lead artist for the international and interdisciplinary dialogue "The Waiting Room Projects," and has presented her collaborative work nationally and internationally. Perret is currently an Associate Professor of Design and Interim Chair at the Washburn University Art Department. www.margueriteperret.com

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John Pienta

University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

John Pienta moved to Iowa city at the age of twelve and has lived there since, yet maintains he's from Chapel Hill, NC. He presently lives with his wife, son and numerous bonsai plants. He is presently a medical student at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and is interested in data science, health policy, resilience, nutritional physiology and taking care of sick children and their families.

Vani Pyda

The George Washington University

Dr. Vani Pyda grew up in California before moving across the country to pursue her undergraduate degree at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She studied premedical sciences, creative writing, and music before pursuing her medical degree at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is currently a third-year internal medicine resident and was a house staff editor for *Cuentos* 2016.

Shella Raja

University of California, Irvine School of Medicine

Shella Raja is a second-year medical student at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. She completed her undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Notre Dame, with minors in anthropology and sustainability. At UC Irvine, Shella is the Medical Humanities Representative on the AMMSG board, advocacy chair of the Pediatric Interest Group, treasurer of the Orange County Needle Exchange Program, and co-president of the Students for Integrative Medicine. This past summer, Shella completed a qualitative research project on the state of hospital artwork in various London hospitals compared that of various Southern California hospitals.

Anna Reisman

Yale School of Medicine

Anna Reisman, MD, is Associate Professor of Medicine and a general internist and educator in the Section of General Internal Medicine at Yale School of Medicine. She directs the Program for Humanities in Medicine, the Yale Internal Medicine Residency Writers' Workshop, and the Standardized Patient Program. She cares for primary care patients at the VA. Writing credits include *Atlantic.com*, *Slate*, *LA Times*, *Health Affairs*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *The New York Times*, *Cognoscenti*, and *New England Journal of Medicine*. Her academic interests include medical education, medical humanities, doctor-patient communication, interprofessional communication, and end-of-life issues. \u2028

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Alaine Reschke-Hernandez

The University of Iowa

Alaine Reschke-Hernandez is a board-certified music therapist with over a decade of clinical experience working in a variety of settings, including post-surgical pain management, children with autism, and older adults with dementia. She is a doctoral candidate, teaching assistant, and practicum supervisor in The University of Iowa music therapy program. Her dissertation research focuses on using music therapy to improve mood and prosocial behaviors in individuals with dementia. She is a researcher in Dr. Dan Tranel's cognitive neuroscience laboratory, has published several papers on music and music therapy, and is the recipient of a Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Award. Alaine's research and work with patients with dementia has recently garnered attention from local media, including Iowa Public Radio's *River to River* with Ben Kieffer.

Susan Reynolds

AWA Canada

Susan Lynn Reynolds is a writer, teacher and psychotherapist. She teaches writing through workshops in the community, in college continuing education programs, and in social services settings. She writes and has won awards for her YA novel, short stories, poems and non-fiction. She has been leading writing workshops for female inmates at Central East Correctional Centre for twelve years, a program for which she received the June Callwood Award for Outstanding Volunteerism. She leads professional training for Amherst Writers International and the Toronto Writers Collective and is the Executive Director of Amherst Writers Canada. www.goforwords.com

Thor Ringler

William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital

Thor Ringler is a poet and a therapist. He works as a Writer-Editor at the VA hospital in Madison, WI and manages the My Life, My Story program. He has an MFA in Poetry from the University of Pittsburgh and an MS in Marriage and Family Therapy from Edgewood College. He teaches a My Story elective for 4th year medical students at the University of Wisconsin. He's had far too many jobs and careers but is most happy with his current one. He lives in Madison with wife April, kids Archie and Fritz, and dog Max.

Meghan Ross

The University of Iowa

Meghan Ross is a board-certified music therapist in the corridor area. She completed her internship at UIHC, a coveted position, and over the last three years has worked closely with individuals with dementia, children with intellectual disabilities, and individuals in hospice care. Meghan received her undergraduate degree in music therapy at The University of Iowa where she is currently pursuing her master's. She is also a teaching assistant and clinical supervisor. Meghan has given numerous presentations to caregivers, patients, and hospice teams. Her capstone research addresses the benefits of music therapy for dementia patients in hospice care and their families.

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Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA

Bruce Scherting

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Bruce Scherting is Director of Project Art and the Medical Museum at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. The goal of Project Art is to humanize and transform the healthcare environment through the arts by providing aesthetic and contemplative experiences in public spaces that promotes exploration and well being for patients, family members, visitors and staff. For more than twelve years, Scherting was Director of Exhibits at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum developing exhibits that explored life on earth, past and present. Scherting also taught in the University of Kansas Graduate Museum Studies Program for more than twelve years supervising student collaborations with academic units and community organizations. Previously he worked at the Field Museum and the Shedd Aquarium, both in Chicago, and the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History where he also taught in the Museum Studies Program.

Kayleen Schreiber

University of Iowa

Kayleen Schreiber is a PhD candidate in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Neuroscience at the University of Iowa. She currently studies the specific processes that allow the human brain to understand speech so effectively.

Robert Schwab

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Allen

Dr. Schwab is Chief Medical Officer for a community hospital in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. A former Professor of Medical Humanities and Emergency Medicine at UMKC School of Medicine, he also practiced Palliative Medicine for a number of years. He continues to speak, write, and sing about the role of art in the professional development of physicians, and about how a focus on healing can enhance the healthcare experience for patients, families, and caregivers, particularly as applied to end of life care. His first novel, *Holy Water*, was self-published in 2011. www.robertschwab.com

Carol Scott-Conner

University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Carol Scott-Conner MD PhD is author or editor of 12 surgical textbooks and numerous surgical papers. In more recent years, she has written two books of short stories. Around 15 of these stories were first published in small literary journals, ranging from *North Dakota Quarterly* through *The Healing Muse*. She serves on the editorial board of *The Examined Life Journal*, and is past editor-in-chief of that journal. Her most recent book, *Medical Writing: Creative Writing for Clinicians*, is meant to serve as a bridge from technical to creative writing. She is professor emeritus of surgery at the University of Iowa.

Kristin Seaborg

Group Health Cooperative

Kristin Seaborg is a pediatrician and author of *The Sacred Disease: My Life with Epilepsy*. She practices primary care pediatrics at Group Health Cooperative in Madison, Wisconsin. An advocate for epilepsy awareness, Kristin hopes that writing about her disease will help decrease the stigma associated with seizures and increase awareness about the importance of practicing empathy in medicine. You can find Kristin at www.kristinseaborg.com, at www.oneintwenty-six.com, on Facebook at Kristin Seaborg MD, Author, and on Twitter @KristinSeaborg.

The Examined Life: the Writing, Humanities and Arts of Medicine

Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA

Sarah Singer

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sarah is a doctoral student in English and Comparative Literature. She studies rhetoric and composition, and she focuses in disability studies and feminist rhetoric. Sarah is the project assistant for the Writing Diabetes study. She is the lead author on the forthcoming essay, “Pre-Health Humanities as Research Practice” in a special issue of the Journal of Medical Humanities. Sarah documents her writing and research process on the blog rhetoricandlymedisease.com.

Katherine Standefer

The University of Arizona

Katherine E. Standefer writes about the body, consent, and medical technology from Tucson, where she teaches intimate, independent writing classes that help people engage their experiences of sexuality and illness. Winner of the 2015 Iowa Review Award in Nonfiction, her work appears in *Best American Essays 2016* and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Standefer earned her MFA at the University of Arizona and is a Clinical Lecturer in the Medical Humanities Department. A Certified Sexologist and former teen clinic manager, she has provided sexuality education to 7,800 people. www.KatherineStandefer.com

Christine Stewart

South Dakota State University

Poet and essayist Christine Stewart-Nuñez is the author of *Untrussed* (2016), *I Don't Actually Know* (2016), *Keeping Them Alive* (2011), and *Postcard on Parchment* (2008). Her piece “An Archeology of Secrets” was a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2012*. She is an Associate Professor in the English Department at South Dakota State University.

Jennifer Stockwell

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jen is a doctoral student in English and Comparative Literature. Her field is rhetoric and composition with a focus on the Health Humanities. Jen is the project coordinator and workshop facilitator for the Writing Diabetes study. Additionally, she has a forthcoming publication, “Medical Interiors: Materiality and Spatiality in Medical Rhetoric Research Methods” in *Methodologies in Rhetoric of Health and Medicine* (Routledge).

Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig

University of Florida

MS Stoyan-Rosenzweig is Director of Medical Humanities at the UF College of Medicine, and holds a faculty position in the UF Health Science Center Library. She has served as adjunct faculty in the Department of History, Center for African Studies, and Center for the Arts in Medicine. She works as archivist and historian, conducting oral history interviews. Teaching experience includes college-level and medical school courses in history, writing, environmental studies, biology, African studies, arts-in-medicine, and healthy food systems. Her UF collaborations include a co-curated exhibit at the art museum, a symposium on healing environments, and a medical humanities group.

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Bogi Takács

University of Iowa

Bogi Takács is a Hungarian Jewish agender trans person, and an author of short-form speculative fiction, poetry and related nonfiction. Bogi has had work available in venues such as *Clarkesworld*, *Strange Horizons*, *Lightspeed* and *Nature Futures*, the science fiction column of *Nature*. Bogi has a story forthcoming in *Defying Doomsday*, an anthology of apocalypse-survival fiction with a focus on disabled characters published by Twelfth Planet Press. Bogi is also a psycholinguist and a PhD student working in the Word Learning Laboratory at the University of Iowa. You can visit Bogi's website at <http://www.prezzy.net>.

David Thoele

Advocate Children's Hospital

David G. Thoele is Co-Director of Narrative Medicine (NM) at ACH in Chicago. His creative essays are featured in *Pulse*, *Hektoen International* and *Physicians Practice*. He has led and participated in workshops at The Examined Life Conference. He is also a pediatric cardiologist at ACH. He learned a new perspective when his daughter got sick and he experienced the medical system from a parent's point of view. He created and co-directs the NM group at ACH, which includes members of all departments at ACH. The group meets monthly, using writing, music, meditation and relaxation exercises to promote healing.

Aimee Valeras

NH Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency

Aimee Burke Valeras, PhD, LICSW is faculty with the NH Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency and the Leadership Preventive Medicine Residency at Concord Hospital Family Health Center. She received her undergraduate and Masters of Social Work degrees from Boston College and her Doctorate in Social Work from Arizona State University. Dr. Burke Valeras recently coedited the book *Integrated Behavioral Health in Primary Care: Evaluating the Evidence, Identifying the Essentials*. She has presented nationally and internationally on the topics of integrated behavioral health and primary care, disability and illness identity, and qualitative research methodology. Her three young children consume her free time.

Tamar Walker

Keck School of Medicine of USC

Tamar V.L. Walker is a second-year medical student at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. She is a co-founder of the Medical Humanities Interest Group and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Interest Group. She also has an A.B. in East Asian Studies from Princeton University. In her spare time, she enjoys travel, food, hiking, and reading.

Philip Weitzl

Doane College

Philip Jude Weitzl is an Associate Professor of English at Doane College, where he was named the 2010 Teacher of the Year. He also created the school's Writing Center and recently accepted an invitation to organize a Health and the Humanities Working Group on campus. He holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Nebraska, as well as a Master of Arts in English and a Graduate Certificate in Technical and Professional Communication from Kansas State University. A former political speechwriter, he has published essays in several literary magazines and contributes regularly to *Nebraska Life*.

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Caroline Wellbery

Georgetown University

Caroline Wellbery, MD, PhD, is a Professor of Family Medicine at Georgetown University. She holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from Stanford University and serves as Associate Deputy Editor of American Family Physician. Her interests include literature in medicine and using the arts to teach the many aspects of patients' experiences. Her website, Interacting with Arts in Medicine, sites.google.com/a/georgetown.edu/mdarts/home focuses on these interests.

Joanna White

Central Michigan University

Music professor Joanna White has works (poetry, fiction, and water color) in: The Examined Life Journal, Ars Medica, Pulse, Chest Journal, Medical Literary Messenger, Cape Rock, MacGuffin, Sow's Ear Poetry Review, Minerva Rising, Naugatuck River Review, and Ember: a Journal of Luminous Things, among others. Having had frightening childhood medical experiences, she writes to find a voice during current medical events, and to deal with a career-threatening malady. She is finishing, in her spare time, a Masters in English with a creative writing emphasis, and has given readings at Michigan English conferences. She performs around the globe at music festivals.

Audrey Young

EvergreenHealth

Audrey Young, MD, is an internist and author of *What Patients Taught Me* (2004), and *House of Hope and Fear: Life in a Big City Hospital* (2009). *People Magazine* has called her "a fine storyteller." She is Deputy Editor for Healing Arts in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. She lives in Seattle with her husband and two children.

The Examined Life: the Writing, Humanities and Arts of Medicine

Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA

Exhibitors

Prairie Lights

info@prairielights.com

<http://prairielights.com>

800-295-BOOK

https://twitter.com/Prairie_Lights

<https://www.facebook.com/Prairie-Lights-Bookstore-27924083261/>

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/106623572567362353517/posts>

Visit our table for books written by Examined Life presenters and more. On-the-spot consignments available for all attendees.

PAGES OF APHASIA

VJCARIDE@GMAIL.COM

The poster includes bilingual poetry and art and my experience of the "silent", progressive aphasia build in time until be obvious for the individual. In my case, I was blame of my "block writing" an elegant pretext until accept my aphasia. The material is from my work, poetry and prose, in Spanish and with translation to English. Reading my poems, (1970 - 2016), I pickup those that poems about words, the life the words in the pages in poetry, and the transcripts or language transfer (second language) or the aphasia. The poems, the words in it are actors of the drama progressive the silencing. Presented by Vicente Caride, MD.

How an Increasing Number of Humanities Majors in Medical Schools is Shaping the Medical Education Landscape

barbara.lam@usc.edu

https://twitter.com/barbara_lam

The medical humanities have assumed an increasingly important role in the educational philosophy and curricula of medical schools. Many schools offer interdisciplinary classes and extracurriculars, and research and experience have demonstrated that medical students from a humanities background are as qualified as their peers with a science background. This shifting perspective has diversified the medical school student body, but no research has explored how this change has in turn affected humanities extracurriculars, classes, and campus culture. This project surveyed schools in California, Texas, and New York to evaluate the potential relationship between changing medical school class composition, the emergence of student-led interest groups in the medical humanities, and changes in the official curricula over the past decade. This poster will spark discussion about the impact and importance of continuing to diversify the medical student body, and how the medical humanities can contribute to improving medical school education. Presented by Barbara Lam , Keck School of Medicine of USC; Jonathan Chou , Keck School of Medicine of USC; Tamar Virtelle Lan Walker, Keck School of Medicine of USC; Mia Winthrop, Keck School of Medicine of USC

The Examined Life: the Writing, Humanities and Arts of Medicine

Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA

Developing Services and Resources to Assist Researchers with their Broader Impact Communication, Outreach, and Engagement

kasra-zarei@uiowa.edu

Purpose: Developing Services and Resources to Assist Researchers with their Broader Impact Communication, Outreach, and Engagement Description: Being presented is a suite of growing services for researchers (faculty, staff, and students) on campus to use to communicate their research in the language of a general audience and implement broader impact projects. The most notable service is the Latham Technical-to-General Translation Writing Service which seeks to convert technical writings (manuscripts, grants, invention disclosures, patent applications) to writings in the language of a general audience (mainly press-releases), as well as pictorial and multimedia representations to supplement the writings. Additionally, a Project Proposal Submission service has also been developed to collect broader impact project ideas (related to grants) that future students and outreach groups on campus could implement to aid faculty researchers. Presented by Kasra Zarei, University of Iowa.

My Life, My Story

thor.ringler@va.gov

Stories from the My Life, My Story project at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital will be displayed. There will be individual stories from veterans and VA providers. We will also have copies of VA Storybook, a collection of nurse stories from a hospital inpatient unit. Presented by Thor Ringler, William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital.

Flores Para la Sala de Espera (Flowers for the Waiting Room)

marguerite.perret@gmail.com

<http://margueriteperret.com/>

(319) 321-1274

"Flores para la Sala de Espera" is an Interactive/participatory installation, that includes postcards, on which conference attendees may express their concerns and hopes for an affordable public healthcare system by responding to the question, "Is healthcare a right, privilege or commodity? Also on view, artwork created by patients in the waiting rooms of the Public Hospital in Asuncion, Paraguay, materials to make your own artwork and large scale graphics from the Waiting Room Projects. Primary artistic partners include Marguerite Perret, Bruce Scherting and Teresita Noemi Gonzales with art therapist Tina Brackman.

Permanente Press: The Permanente Journal/leaflet

max.l.mcmillen@kp.org

<http://leaflet.thepermanente.org/index.php>

The Permanente Press publishes books and two journals: The Permanente Journal, a medical journal with international presence, and leaflet, a medical literary and visual arts ejournal. Each of these includes creative works by physicians, clinicians, and other health care practitioners. We will share some of the books we have published, and materials and information about our publications and how to submit to our journals.

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Ken Browne Productions

ken@kbprods.com

<http://www.kbprods.com/>

DVDs of films by Ken Browne Productions, producer of *Why Doctors Write: Finding Humanity in Medicine* *Mondays at Skimmilk: 30 Years of Writers at Work* "exquisitely captures the joy and the lasting bonds that emerge when people who love writing come together to share their work and help each other grow." Pat Fagnoli, NH Poet Laureate *Look! I'm in College* - the story of first NYC public school college inclusion program for students with autism. Winner Paul Robeson Award 2010, Newark Black Film Festival, Best Short Doc.

Hektoen International Journal of Medical Humanities

journal@hektoeninternational.org

<http://hektoeninternational.org/>

Hektoen International is an online journal of medical humanities whose mission is uniting medicine with culture. We invite you to learn more about our collection of essays on art, history, ethics, and literature, as well as how to submit your work to the journal.

MyChart

pldcys@gmail.com

In 2006, I was diagnosed with soft tissue sarcoma. In the process of putting together medical documents for a new primary care provider last year, I created a set of graphic design as illustration of miles stones living with this cancer, and inserted them in the medical records I left at the PCP office. They were intended to serve as chapter titles sculpting my story. For this exhibition, I added brief description of events pairing them with actual quote from my medical records along with the art work. Also included are the self-portraits of my body shortly after radiation and prophylactic femoral rod placement surgery in August 2015 showing radiation treatment markings and surgical scars.

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Sponsors and Partners

Center for Narrative Practice

info@narrativepractice.org

<http://www.narrativepractice.org/>

The Center for Narrative Practice believes that critical, skilled attention to narrative, stories and storytelling, in all of its forms, should be recognized as a part of all disciplines and fields. We believe that creativity can be learned, and practiced, and can change the way people communicate, teach, and learn. Through narrative practice, we aim to aid the world in becoming a more humane, accepting, and moral place, and to aid individuals in becoming more engaged participants in their lives and careers.

Iowa City Book Festival

<http://www.iowacitybookfestival.org/>

WELCOME TO IOWA CITY, the third UNESCO City of Literature in the world, and the only one in the United States. The Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature organization is proud to offer you six days of literary programming as part of the 2016 Iowa City Book Festival. Iowa City is a City of Literature for many reasons: The wonderful writing programs at the University of Iowa, including the Writers' Workshop and International Writing Program, our small presses and magazines, our wonderful libraries, our bookstores, and amenities like the Iowa Avenue Literary Walk. While you are here, we encourage you to explore all of this and more, to fully immerse yourself in our rich literary culture.

Prairie Lights

info@prairielights.com

<http://prairielights.com>

319-335-6823

Prairie Lights sprang to life in May 1978 as a small, intimate bookstore offering titles by the newer voices of Raymond Carver and Alice Munro and by established authors like Eudora Welty and George Orwell. As the staff and customers tended the books with care much like a garden, the store grew and blossomed. By 1982 Prairie Lights transplanted itself from South Linn St. to South Dubuque and has gradually spread to three and a half floors, the half being an 1100 square foot coffee house located in the same space that the local literary society met throughout the 1930's, hosting writers Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost, Sherwood Anderson, Langston Hughes, e e cummings and others. Gertrude Stein and friend Alice B. Toklas were scheduled for a reading but were sleeted in at Waukesha airport-- or so the story goes. Perhaps the strength of reputation lies in the reading series of local, national and international writers who have read their works which were broadcast live on stations WSUI and WOI and which was the only regular literary series of its kind. All of this could not have been possible without a loyal customer base and a dedicated staff. We thank our customers for their continued support, and welcome our new customers.

Lisa Kerr Dunn

kerli@musc.edu

<https://twitter.com/lkerrdunn>

<https://www.facebook.com/lkerrdunn/>

L. Kerr Dunn is an associate professor of writing and humanities at the Medical University of South Carolina. Her book *Mysterious Medicine: The Doctor-Scientist Tales of Hawthorne and Poe* is available from Kent State University Press.

The Examined Life: the Writing, Humanities and Arts of Medicine

Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA

The Secrets of Flight, a novel by Maggie Leffler

<http://www.MaggieLeffler.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/authorMaggieLeffler>

THE SECRETS OF FLIGHT brings readers from the skies of World War II to the present day, where a woman is prepared to tell her secrets at last. Estranged from her family since just after World War II, Mary Browning has spent her entire adult life hiding from her past. Now eighty-seven years old and a widow, she is still haunted by secrets and fading memories of the family she left behind. Her one outlet is the writing group she's presided over for a decade, though she's never written a word herself. When a new member walks in—a fifteen-year-old girl who reminds her so much of her beloved sister Sarah—Mary is certain fate delivered Elyse Strickler to her for a reason. Mary hires the serious-eyed teenager to type her story about a daring female pilot who, during World War II, left home for the sky and gambled everything for her dreams—including her own identity. As they begin to unravel the web of Mary's past, Mary and Elyse form an unlikely friendship. Together they discover it's never too late for second chances and that sometimes forgiveness is all it takes for life to take flight in the most unexpected ways.

UI Carver College of Medicine

<http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu>

<https://twitter.com/uihealthcare>

<https://www.facebook.com/uihealthcare>

The University of Iowa's Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine is a highly ranked medical school where students learn to become accomplished clinicians and top-flight researchers and educators. Students come to Iowa to study medicine in a program that uses case-based learning as the basis of their education. With its emphasis on problem-solving skills, early exposure to patients, and enhanced community-based experiences, UI medical students typically earn impressive scores on Step 1 of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination and successfully “match” with top-quality residency programs around the country. Researchers in the College's over 280 laboratories are served by state-of-the-art core research facilities and research support facilities. Much of the research conducted is interdisciplinary and collaborations are fostered and coordinated through major research centers, institutes and programs. Many faculty members are internationally renowned for their research. Four faculty members are Howard Hughes Institute Investigators, 12 are members of the Institute of Medicine and two are members of the National Academy of Sciences. The UI Carver College of Medicine is proud to be the home of a number of specialized centers of care and research. The buildings housing the Carver College of Medicine are the centerpiece of a recently redesigned health sciences campus that includes pedestrian-friendly commons and a functional and stimulating environment for students, faculty, and staff. The College is part of University of Iowa Health Care—a fully integrated academic medical center, which also includes the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and University of Iowa Physicians, the largest multi-specialty group practice in Iowa. As the state's only comprehensive academic medical center, UI Health Care is committed to world-class patient care, biomedical research, and medical education.

Virtue Medicine PC

jtansey@virtuemedicine.com

<http://www.virtuemedicine.com/>

319-338-5190

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/janeta-tansey-md-phd-a6728a5a>

<https://plus.google.com/+Virtuemedicine>

Located in downtown Iowa City, Virtue Medicine provides Clinics in Mind-Body Health, Contemplative Arts, and Programs in Ethics and Professionalism.

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Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA

Iowa Vital Signs

<http://iowavitalsigns.org/>

Vital Signs is the official newspaper of the Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa. For nearly 50 years, Vital Signs has been the megaphone and soap box for medical students. We publish journalism and a diverse spectrum of creative efforts. Our website is updated weekly taking the pulse of health sciences community. Our quarterly, "Leaf/Lit" contains our best content. If you have an interest in writing, editing, or managing Vital Signs please contact us!