



# Drexel University College of Medicine

In the tradition of Woman's Medical College of  
Pennsylvania and Hahnemann Medical College

*Family, Community & Preventive Medicine  
Division of Medical Humanities*

## Medical Humanities Scholar Requirements

Medical Students may achieve the designation of **Humanities Scholar** upon graduation by completing a prescribed amount of scholarship in the area of the Medical Humanities. This designation is noted on the permanent transcript, and is acknowledged at graduation. Students who complete Humanities Scholar requirements by August 1 of their senior year will also have that noted in their Dean's Letter (Medical Student Performance Evaluation).

Students who are considering becoming a Humanities Scholar should discuss their plans with Florence Gelo, D.Min., Director of the Humanities Scholars Program, at [Florence.Gelo@drexelmed.edu](mailto:Florence.Gelo@drexelmed.edu) or at 215-991-8464. Students are strongly encouraged to contact Dr Gelo as early as possible in order to develop an independent study project; students may want to begin work on that project during the summer in between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years of medical school.

### **To receive the Humanities Scholar Award students must:**

- complete three (3) Humanities Elective Courses, and
- attend six (6) Humanities Grand Rounds or Humanities Special Events and submit a journal entry for each, and
- attend or view the recorded lecture entitled "Writing for Publication" and complete a journal entry describing the session's key points, and
- submit a written proposal (1 to 2 paragraphs) describing the topic the paper will address and possible venues for publication, and
- select a faculty mentor, approved by Dr. Gelo, the Director of the Humanities Scholars Program, to discuss the proposal and to assist in the successful completion of the project
- complete an independent study project, typically a paper with references, approximately 10 pages in length.

### **Humanities Scholars may choose from two completion deadlines:**

1. Complete all requirements by August 1 of the senior year. Students completing their requirements by this time will receive a certificate of achievement, have their accomplishment mentioned in their Dean's Letter, and have a notation in their medical school record.
2. Complete all requirements by March 15 of the senior year. Students who complete their requirements by this time will receive a certificate of achievement, notation in their medical school transcript and acknowledgement at graduation, but will not be finished in time for mention in the Dean's letter. This later deadline affords the student the valuable opportunity of working on their independent project during elective time in the 4<sup>th</sup> year.

### **Additional Information About Requirements**

1. Complete at least three Humanities Elective Courses: These courses are generally completed during the first two years of medical school. Course credit is awarded for satisfactory completion of three different Humanities Elective courses which are offered at the Queen Lane campus during the academic year. No course may be taken

for credit more than once. Students must sign in at each class session and meet all other individual course requirements in order to receive course credit. Course credit appears on each student's medical school transcript.

2. Attend at least six Humanities Grand Rounds or Medical Humanities Special Events: Humanities Grand Rounds presentations are offered at the Queen Lane Campus. Students must attend the actual, live lecture or event to get credit for at least four Humanities Grand Rounds. The remaining two Grand Rounds can be viewed online or on DVD. Students may also receive Grand Rounds credit for attending designated Medical Humanities events off campus, such as conferences, lectures, and exhibitions. Contact Dr. Gelo ([Florence.Gelo@DrexelMed.edu](mailto:Florence.Gelo@DrexelMed.edu)) or Dr. Rosenzweig ([Steven.Rosenzweig@DrexelMed.edu](mailto:Steven.Rosenzweig@DrexelMed.edu)) to inquire whether an outside activity can be approved for Humanities Grand Rounds/Humanities Special Event credit.)

Students document attendance or viewing of DVDs by keeping a journal in which they briefly record their impressions and reactions to each Humanities Grand Rounds or Special Event (about ½ page, or 2 paragraphs each). Journal entries must clearly specify date, speaker, and topic of presentation. Students retain their journals until Humanities course and Grand Rounds/Special Events requirements are completed, at which time each student presents his/her journal entries, along with a current medical school transcript indicating completion of three elective courses, to the Director of the Humanities Scholars Program to document completion of primary requirements for Humanities Scholars Certificate.

3. Attend a "Writing for Publication" lecture: Students must attend, or view online, a lecture that addresses the basic aspects of writing a publishable paper on a humanities topic and complete a journal entry describing key points from the session.

4. Submit a written proposal for the independent study project: Students must submit a one to two paragraph written proposal to Dr. Gelo and obtain approval of the topic for the independent study project. They are strongly encouraged to meet with Dr. Gelo as early as the spring of their freshman year. General areas of inquiry include ethics, literature, history, philosophy, art, cultural studies, law, religion and spirituality, and music as they relate to medicine. The proposal should also list two or three peer-reviewed journals or Internet venues for publication. Dr. Gelo will help students identify a faculty advisor who has expertise in the chosen area of inquiry. Students should expect to submit drafts to their faculty advisor for feedback. To receive credit, students must complete an acceptable research paper of at least ten pages in length, with references, or a substantial equivalent project, that has been approved by the Director of the Humanities Scholars Program.

### **Selected Humanities Scholars - 2000-2011** **Paper Topics**

#### **2000**

Kristen Carey

*Mandatory Reporting of Domestic Violence: an Ethical and Human Rights Perspective*

Dominic Gault

*Health Beliefs of the Delaware Indians*

Meredith Lee Heltzer

*Plant References in Shakespeare*

Daniel A. Smith

*Why Methadone Maintenance Treatment is not accepted in America*

Parveen Vahora  
*Silent Shrieks: Female Genital Mutilation*

Christopher Ware  
*Internet Usage and Validity Testing by Chronic Pain Patients: Results of a Web-based Survey*

## **2001**

Mary C. Davies  
*Pioneering Otolaryngologists of The Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania 1883-1900*

Asif Ilyas  
*Orthopedic Surgery: The First Modern Medical Specialty?*

Sonu Jain  
*Chevalier Jackson and the Introduction of Modern Bronchoesophogoscopy*

Erum Khan  
*Violence against Muslim Women: Culture versus Religion*

Abigail Rose  
*Reflections on My Experience Working with the Navajo in Shiprock, New Mexico*

Joel Martin Schofer  
*Informed Consent and the Wartime Environment*

Laurie A. Wincko  
*Children and Violence: The Role of Art Therapy*

## **2002**

Jason Estrin  
Estrin, J.E., Tenore, J., Fleetwood, J., and Lipsky, M.  
"Genetic Susceptibility Testing for Breast Cancer: Implications for Practitioners."  
*Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management. Vol. 7, No 1, January, 2000.*

## **2003**

Amy Baranowski  
*Medical Genetics*

Keri Cohn  
*Beyond the Sterile White Walls*

Vanita B. Dharan  
*The use of alternative therapies in Obstetrics: A review of the literature*

Zoe Friedman  
*Alternative and Complementary (CAM) Healing Modalities*

Greta Piper  
*Perspectives on Organ Donation*

Danielle Raimond  
*The Controversy over the Truth*

William E. Schaaf, Jr.  
*The Potential of Music Therapy as an Option for Patients Undergoing MRI*

## **2004**

Harris Ahmad  
*Proper Care for the Fasting Diabetic Muslim in the Month of Ramadan*

Rose Antoine  
*Religion and Spirituality in Medical Education*

Scott Bier  
*A Discussion of Ancient Egyptian Medical Practice*

Shilpi Mehta  
*Understanding the Decision Not to Reduce: The Case of the McCaughey Septuplets*

Jeevan Sekhar  
*A Brief History of Chinese Medicine: The Impact of Antibiotics on Chinese Medical Practice*

## **2005**

Monica Dua  
*Art Therapy in the Pediatric Population as an Adjunct to Medical Treatment*

Vasiliki A. Moragianni  
*Ethical Considerations of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis*

## **2006**

Megan Beatty  
*Literary Medical Doctors*

Nina Nanda  
*Catholicism vs. Hinduism: Issues of End-of-Life Care*

Anne Valerie Maria Nienstedt  
*Linguistic, Cultural, and Ethical Considerations in the Doctor-Patient Relationship Involving Hispanic Patients in the United States*

## **2007**

Diana X. Bharucha  
*End of Life in the Pediatric Population*

Robert Bramante  
*An Appropriate Symbol for Modern Medicine or a Case of Mistaken Identity*

Kristin Geisser Christensen  
*Compulsory HPV Vaccination Examining the Debate*

Amanda Ficacelli  
*End of Life Care in Pediatrics*

Leslie C. Ghisletta  
*A Glance at Women in Surgery*

Ritu Kumar  
*Using Art to analyze the physician patient relationship*

Athanasios Melisiotis  
*Communication and Cultural Barriers in the Effective Treatment of the non-English speaking population in the Emergency Department*

Michelle Orengo-McFarlane  
*Derangements of the uterus, derangements of the nerves; women writes on hysteria*

Neelam Mahendra Patel  
*The Polio and Asthma Epidemics: Public Awareness and Prevention in the United States*

Tiffany Pierce  
*The Effects of Federal Funded Abstinence Only Education*

Meghan Treitz  
*Portrayal of Grief in Children's Literature*

## **2008**

Laura Napier Dougherty  
*That One Simple Test: An Examination of the Development of the Pregnancy Test, Emergency Medicine and a Changing Society*

Stephanie Keller  
*Cultural Expectations and the Evolution of MRI Scanning*

Bonnie Lau  
*The Chinese Culture's perception on Death and Illness*

## **2009**

Megan Gould  
*Oliver and Olivia* – an illustrated story

Sanistree Tanikella  
*Interested in Learning More about Mind-Body Medicine*

Michael Tatusov  
*History of Vaccine Development*

Patricia Young  
*Improving Cancer Prognosis with better Communication Practices*

## **2010**

Sara Beltz  
*Images of the Black Death: The 1347 Plague and Art History*

Tess Bitterman  
*Ethical Considerations/Politics in Pandemics*

Joanna Gernsback  
*I Have What!?! Medical Naming Conventions*

Megan Healy  
*Epilepsy & Africa*

Paul Phelps  
*The Evolution of Cataract Surgery as Ophthalmology Becomes a Modern Medical Specialty*

Shawn Robinson  
*Islam and Christianity: A Comparison of Health Care Viewpoints*

Heather Swanson  
*Identifying and Preventing Child Abuse and its Long Term Outcomes*

Jennifer B. White  
*Gender Differences in Substance Abuse and Treatment*

2011

Wendy Gu  
*Rice and Reason: A Cultural Perspective on Diet Management for Chinese American Diabetic Patients*

Daniel Ostermayer  
*The loss of empathy in medical school understood from the Buddhist concept of non-self*

Will Cho  
*Sarangbu – How one church addresses the social needs of Korean American families with children affected with intellectual disabilities.*”