Why the Humanities?

Physicians must master science and acquire human understanding. The Medical Humanities comprise those disciplines that inquire into the human experience of illness, healing and doctoring with attention to meaning, values and the history of ideas. The Humanities better equip physicians to relieve suffering, understand the experience of illness and disability, find deeper value in the practice of medicine, resolve ethical dilemmas, learn from history, address social determinants of disease, and manage the biases and limitations of science.
Enriching the Mind —
Open to All

The Medical Humanities Program enriches academic life on campus by providing lectures, courses and special events that are open to all. Our program is one of the first of its kind and remains at the forefront of medical education in its breadth and relevance for contemporary medicine. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to sample our offerings.

Our Certificate Program: Becoming a Humanities Scholar

Students who seek a more intensive humanities experience may enter our Certificate Program, a scholarly concentration in Medical Humanities. Candidates complete an individualized course of study that includes: attendance at grand rounds or special events; completion of humanities elective courses, and a mentored independent project. For details and a complete list of requirements, visit:

webcampus.drexelmed.edu/Medhumanities

Email:
Humanities.Coordinator@Drexelmed.edu

Grand Rounds & Special Events
Please consult humanities website, web calendar or bulletin boards for room locations and program changes

“The Hippocratic Oath: What it Really Says and the Changing Values of Medicine”
Aug 12, Noon-1PM
Steven Peitzman, MD (Drexel)

“In What Tradition? Stories of Women’s Medical, Hahnemann, Drexel & the Uses of History”
Date and time TBA
Steven Peitzman, MD (Drexel)

“Cutting Cold Flesh: Perspectives From the Humanities”
Sept 22, Noon-1PM
Steven Peitzman, MD, FACP (Drexel)

“Face/Off or On? Face Transplants and Resistance to Categorization”
Sept 24, 5-6PM
Sharrona Pearl, PhD (Annenberg School of Communication, Univ of Pennsylvania)

“Training for the Physician’s Eye: Enhancing Clinical Skills through Art Education”
Sept 30, Noon-1PM, Repeated 1-2PM
Flo Gelo, DMin, NCPsyA (Drexel)

“Queen Lane Portrait Walk”
Oct 1, 12:15PM; repeated at 1:15—Meet in front of QL library. Note: This event will be offered again on Mar 10.
Joanne Murray, MA; Steven Peitzman, MD; Flo Gelo, DMin, NCPsyA (Drexel)

SPECIAL GRAND ROUNDS:
DEAN’S SCHOLAR VISITING LECTURESHIP:

“Inextinguishable Symphony: A True Story of Music & Love in Nazi Germany”
Oct 14, Noon-1PM
Author and classical music radio host Martin Goldsmith will speak about his parents’ experiences as Jewish musicians in Nazi Germany.

“Medical Mediation: What Mediators Can Teach Physicians about Managing “Difficult” Patients:”
Nov 2, 4-5PM
Autumn Fieser, PhD (Perelman School of Medicine, Univ of Pennsylvania)

“Graphic Medicine: Uses of Comics in Medical Education and Patient Care”
Dec 10; Noon-1PM
Kimberly Myers, PhD (Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center)

“The Urban Experience of Illness”
Jan 5, Noon-1PM
Rhonda Soricelli, MD (Drexel)

“Trauma and Recovery: A Philosopher’s View”
Feb 16, 4-5PM
Jill Stauffer, Ph.D. (Haverford College)

“The Inspiring Life of Frances Van Gasken, M.D., Physician, Teacher, Activist”
Mar 15, 4-5PM
Steven Peitzman, MD, FACP (Drexel)

“A Journey Through Ovarian Cancer”
Apr 12; Noon-1PM
Lowell McMullen, Photographer and Poet

Elective Courses
See website for syllabi & details

Literature & Medicine Book Club
Aug 17, Oct 5, Nov 30, Jan 11, Feb 22. 6-7:30PM
Faculty: Rhonda L. Soricelli, MD
Reading for pleasure is nourishing to the soul and also promotes understanding of the human condition. We will read: Orphan Train, One Hundred Days, Frankenstein, Long Day’s Journey Into Night, and several short stories. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Limited to 20 committed participants. If interested, Contact Dr. Soricelli at RL.Soricelli@comcast.net.

Cutting Cold Flesh: Perspectives from the Humanities
Sept 22, 25, 29. Oct 2,9, 14,16,20. Nov 3,6,10, Noon-1PM
Faculty: Steven Peitzman, MD; Rhonda Soricelli, MD
Dissecting cadavers has long been the first defining task and privilege of medical students. This course is a fascinating look at dissection and anatomy studies through the lenses of history, culture, literature, spirituality and the arts.

Training the Physician’s Eye: Enhancing Clinical Skills through Art Observation
Sept 30, Oct 22, Nov 5 (Queen Lane) Noon-1 and repeated at 1-2PM.
Oct 17, Nov 14 (meet at Penn Academy of Fine Arts) 11AM-1PM.
Faculty: Flo Gelo, DMin, NCPsyA
This course will help students cultivate a special kind of seeing, improving clinical observation skills by looking at works of art. The goals are to sharpen students’ visual acumen and also foster inquiry, critical thinking and empathy in the service of patient care.

(Exceptive courses continued on next panel...