



Teaching with Humanities

10 YEARS 2008-2018
 voices from the heart of medicine

- publishing personal accounts of illness and healing
- fostering the humanistic practice of medicine
- encouraging health care advocacy

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Readers tell us their stories...
 more voices
 This month... [How Can I Help?](#)

When IVF Works!
 Friday, 18 October 2019
 Andrew Wilner ~

Learning to Live 8.5 Hours From My Autistic Daughter
 Friday, 18 October 2019
 Marianne Peel ~

Encounters
 Encounters, our latest feature: Patients talk about their healthcare experiences and share stories about their lives outside the doctor's office.

Popular Tags
[cancer death](#)
[and dying doctor](#)
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[medical student](#)
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the NOCTURNISTS

"As a chaplain whose hope it is to see a gentler and kinder medicine emerge from our broken system, these stories are like little cups of cold water in the desert."
 — JOANNAH H


Objectives

- 1) Understand the role that medical humanities play in deepening learning.
- 2) Explore the possible combinations of medical humanities offerings and core medical topics.
- 3) Plan your approach for using “pairings” of medical humanities with core learning topics.





What
“forms” do
you think of
when you
think of
Medical
Humanities

- Audio - Podcast, Ted talk, Music/singing
 - Visual - paintings, drawings, film, movie clips, photos
 - Reading – essays, short stories, novels, poetry, haiku, 55-word story, graphic novels
 - Writing - essays, short stories, novels, poetry, haiku, 55-word story, 6-word story, journaling
 - Story-telling – having a student/family talk about their experience with a disease, Med Moth
 - Performance/Performative - music, dance, theater, installation, patient as guest speaker
 - Social Sciences – history, philosophy, culinary arts
 - Other – mask making, embodiment, kinesthetics
- 

When, Where, How, Why?

- Pre-session – set stage
- Beginning – prompt early discussion
- During – make a point
- Final statement – punctuation mark
- Post session – go home and think more about it





Why your doctor should care about social justice

1,314,926 views | Mary Bassett • TEDMED 2015

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In Zimbabwe in the 1980s, Mary Bassett witnessed the AIDS epidemic firsthand, and she helped set up a clinic to treat and educate local people about the deadly virus. But looking back, she regrets not sounding the alarm for the real problem: the structural inequities embedded in the world's political and economic organizations, inequities that make marginalized people more vulnerable. These same structural problems exist in the United States today, and as New York City's Health Co...

Using a photo to start conversation

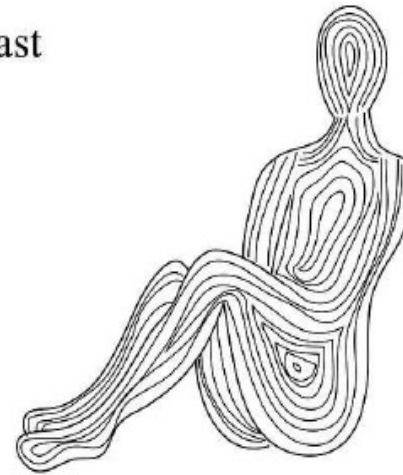
TOPIC: Hospice Care – Broaching the topic of Hospice with a family

- Take a look at this photo
- What do you see?
- What do you think is going on?
- What is your experience?
 - Professionally
 - Personally
- How did you feel?
- Turning this into a plan



there are whole blackouts
in some of the years i have lived
my therapist says our minds erase trauma
to help us move on
but every experience i've had
is memorized in my flesh
even if my mind forgets
my body remembers
my body is the map of my life
my body wears what it's been through
my body signals the alarms when
it thinks danger is coming
and suddenly
the hungry little demons from my past
come raging out of my flesh
screaming
don't you forget us
don't you ever try to
leave us behind again

- rupi kaur



- Having Learners Explore the Art in our City

What does it say about Worcester?



Challenge Learners to take Photos – of the city – of anything – “Noticing”



Lisa Gussak, MD



Teamwork





Writing, a little – reflection, pause, wellness

- Write a short narrative
 - 6 word story
 - Haiku
 - 55 word story

A HAIKU HOW-TO
Five syllables in the first line
Seven syllables in the second line
Five syllables in the last line

We are getting old
She said, holding tight. Be our
Doctor 'til we die

*Haiku from Laos Clinic
Krista Farey - UMass Dec 2015*

Listening to people. Learning new perspectives

Larissa Andrade – STFM PRiMER. 2022;6:8

Table 1

How to Write a 55-word Story^{2,5}

1. Think of a compelling story based on your experience (as clinician, patient, other?).
2. Write down everything you can think of.
3. Don't edit, just write (phrases, words, key chunks of memory).
4. Put it away (optional and can be done at any time between # 2 and finishing).
5. Read over your writing and begin to clarify the idea or storyline that you want to convey.
6. Begin editing, sometimes ruthlessly.
7. Share your work with others for reactions and feedback.
8. Keep editing until you get to 55 words. Use your word counter, and also double check manually.
 - a. Title doesn't contribute to word count but shouldn't be more than seven words.
 - b. Contractions count as single words.
 - c. Eliminating articles (the, a, an) can help with word count.
9. If you cannot cut enough words, you probably have material that either would lend itself to a longer essay or become multiple 55-word stories.
10. Given the brevity, formatting can make a big difference. Experiment with line length, indentations, hanging indents, and other use of white space.

Use a prompt

- Write about a recent clinical encounter (this week)



Examples of Humanities Scholarly Work

Presentations

- Hatem D, Hansen M, Wada-Gill B, **Silk H**. The Humanities Lab - Promoting projects in the Humanities in a Learning Community and Medical School. Learning Communities Institute Annual Meeting (Virtual) Oct 2021
- Shields S, Phillips J, Shapiro J, Reilly JM, **Silk H**, Saultz J. Improving Your Reviewer Skills for Narrative Medicine. STFM Annual Meeting. New Orleans. Virtual. May 2021
- **Silk H**, Shields S, Sparks A, Day P, Clark J, Wilson J. Seeing, Reading, Listening – Incorporating Medical Humanities into Family Medicine Core Sessions. Workshop. Family Medicine Education Consortium. Pittsburgh, PA. Oct 2021
- Sethi S, Dannenhoffer J, Roberts A, Shields S, **Silk H**, Sundaram S, VanDerwerken S, Wacks N. The Reflection Roadmap: Medical Humanities in Residency Education. STFM Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. May 2018

Publications

- Silver M, Ohnigian S, **Silk H**, Ennis M, Savageau J. Med Moth: A Storytelling Platform for Improving Wellness in Medical Education. *International Journal of Medical Students*. 2021.
- Reilly J. M., **Silk H**. The power of humanities for reflection and healing during challenging times [Editorial]. *Families, Systems, & Health*, 2020;38(Suppl 1):1.
- **Silk H**. Again. *Streams of Consciousness* 2019; 2(2):Article 14.
- **Silk H**. The Power of a Handshake. *Worcester Medicine*.2018;82(2):10.
- **Silk H**. Toenail Chronicles. *Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine*. Spring 2017.
- **Silk H**. The Care of Strangers. *Family Medicine*. 2022;54(3):234-5. (Book Review)

Where to Read/Experience Medical Humanities or Publish

American Journal of Psychiatry: Introspections – personal vignettes of experiences --
<http://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/>

Annals of Family Medicine: “Reflections” - www.annfammed.org

Annals of Internal Medicine: "On Being a Doctor/On Being a Patient" “Ad Libitum”(poems)
“Graphic Narrative/Comic” “Personae – Cover Photo” “Ideas and Opinions” section --
www.annals.org

Ars Medica: A Journal of Medicine, the Arts, and Humanities – Canadian. Content includes
narratives from patients and health care workers, medical history, fiction, creative nonfiction,
poetry, and visual art. www.ars-medica.ca/

Bellevue Literary Review -- fiction, nonfiction, and poetry that touch upon relationships to the
human body, illness, health and healing www.blreview.org/

Blood and Thunder, University of Oregon Health Sciences Center: Prose, Visual Arts, and
Poetry -- <http://www.ouhsc.edu/bloodandthunder/>

British Medical Journal: “Personal Views” -- www.bmj.com

CMAJ – Canadian Medical Association Journal: Humanities – Encounters, Poetry --
<http://www.cmaj.ca/site/home/humanities.xhtml>

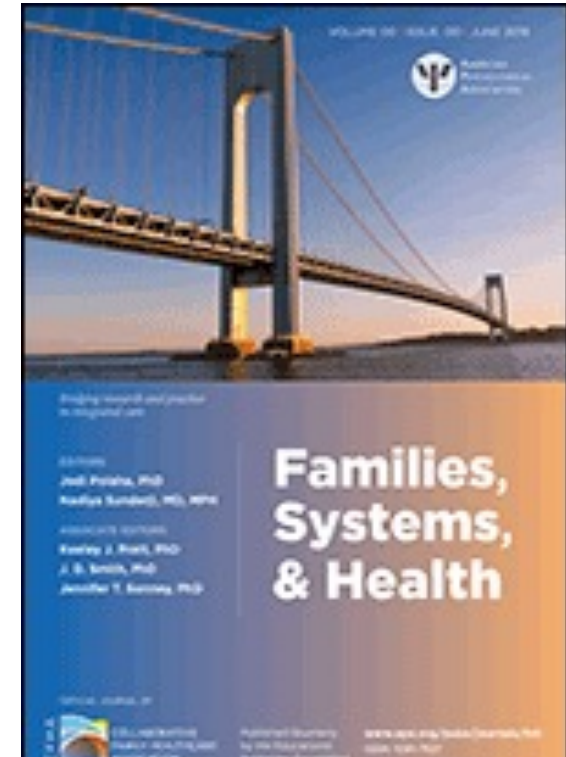
Consultant: “Doctors” Stories: Tales from the Trenches” www.consultant360.com

Dermanities: with a broadly defined dermatology slant -- www.dermanities.com

Evening Paper – The Journal of the Center for Narrative Practice. Submit fiction, poetry,
creative non-fiction, and studio art (photography, painting, drawing, or any other visual

Write; Review!

- **Send us your writing** to be considered for publication at Families, System and Health in the Sharing Our Stories section
- **Sign up to be a Reviewer** for Sharing Our Stories – email me
- Hugh.silk@umassmemorial.org



**Family
Medicine**

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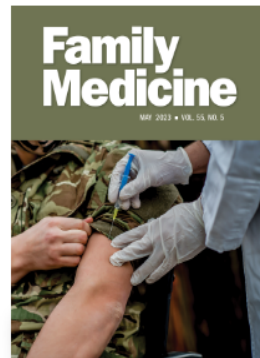
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May 2023

Family Medicine, an official journal of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, aims to publish high quality, original scholarship about education in family medicine and primary care. The journal publishes original research, systematic reviews, narrative essays, and policy analyses relevant to the discipline of family medicine, particularly focusing on primary care medical education, health workforce policy, and health services research. The journal does not publish clinical review articles.

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