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Medical Humanities Lab: Re-envisioning library services to foster the growth of medical humanities in education and healthcare

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Medical Humanities Lab:

Re-envisioning library services to foster
the growth of medical humanities in
education and healthcare

Tess Grynoch, Lisa Palmer, and Regina Raboin

Lamar Soutter Library

UMass Chan Medical School, Worcester, MA, USA



Lamar Soutter Library

Education • Research • Health Care

Empowering the future. Preserving the past.



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Presenters

Tess Grynoch

Research & Scholarly Communications Librarian

Lisa Palmer

Institutional Repository Librarian

Regina Raboin

Associate Director

Overview

- Background on the UMass Chan Medical Humanities Lab partnership
- Projects supported
- Facilitators of success
- Challenges
- Brainstorm ideas for supporting humanities at your institution

Fun Poll

- See our padlet: padlet.com/tessgrynoch/fn8ionqnc4yr6egf
- Choose one picture that best describes medical humanities at your institution
- Vote!
 - In the padlet, click on the heart under the picture
 - Or, in the Zoom chat, type the letter of the picture

A



B



C



D



E



Picture by the Maryland Department of Agriculture

Background – UMass Chan

- Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Biomedical Sciences
- Ranked top 10 in the U.S. for primary care education
- Offers Population-based Urban & Rural Community Health (PURCH) track at Baystate campus in Springfield, MA
- Major center for research (more than \$400 million in federal and private research grants in FY2021)
- Lamar Soutter Library serves as the regional medical library for Region 7 of the Network of the National Library of Medicine (New England states and New York)



Before the Medical Humanities Lab

- Humanities in Medicine Committee
- "Artists in Residence" Series
- Graphic Medicine Collection
- Capstone Projects and faculty with humanities interests
- Humanities Optional Enrichment Electives
- Med Moth
- Gerald F. Berlin Creative Writing Award
- Streams of Consciousness



An Idea is Realized: Medical Humanities Lab

Mission

The mission of the Medical Humanities Lab at UMass Medical School is to integrate the arts and humanities into medical education and healthcare through student, faculty, and staff collaborations fostering humanism in medicine.





Library Support for the Lab

- Leadership and administrative support
- Technology expertise
- Space for in-person meetings
- Hosted virtual meetings
- Promotional assistance

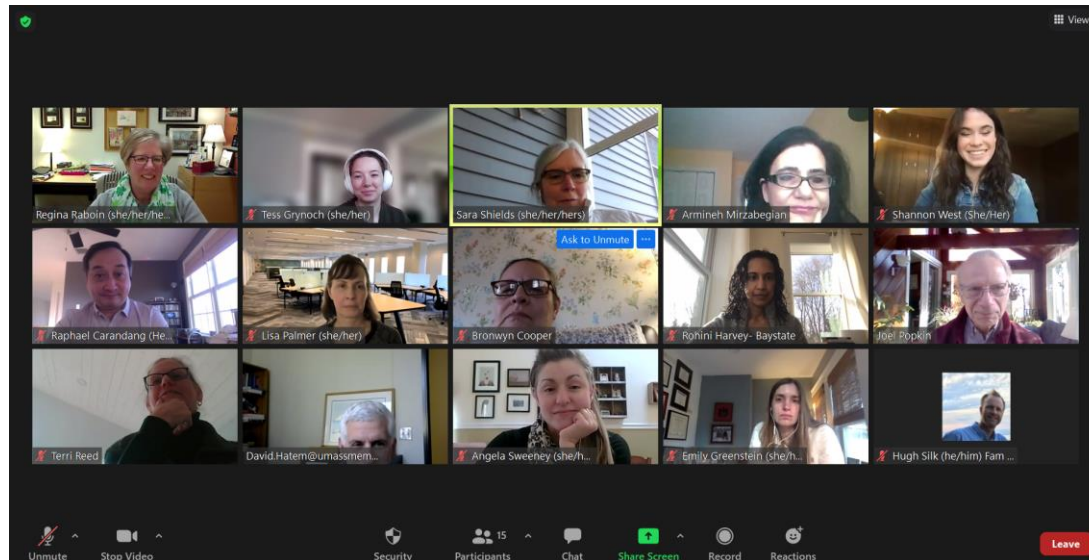
Medical Humanities Lab

TIMELINE

Event	Date
First Meeting	January 16, 2019
Inventory of Medical Humanities Activities	January 16 - February 20, 2019
Website Launch	July 2019
Humanities Lab Logo	January 28, 2020
Meetings Suspended	February – May 2020
First Zoom Meeting	June 17, 2020


Typical Medical Humanities Lab Meeting

- Presentation by a member of the group or invited speaker
- Project updates from members that are at the meeting
 - Brainstorming solutions to pain points or answering questions



March 17, 2021 Meeting

Website: libraryguides.umassmed.edu/Humanities_lab




Lamar Soutter Library / Medical Humanities Lab / Home

Official website of the Medical Humanities Lab at UMass Chan Medical School

Search this Site Search

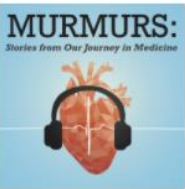
Home UMass Chan Projects Project Support Events Get Involved! Humanities in Medicine Committee



About

The mission of the Medical Humanities Lab at UMass Chan Medical School is to integrate the arts and humanities into medical education and healthcare through student, faculty, and staff collaborations fostering humanism in medicine.

Featured Projects



Keep in Touch!

Add your name to the Medical Humanities Lab mailing list to stay informed of future meetings and events.

Name: (required)

Email: (required)

Facilitators of Success

- Library is well respected on campus and connected to medical humanities and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts on campus
- Range of expertise available across campus
- Existing medical humanities efforts at UMass Chan to build on
- Interdisciplinary nature of librarianship
- Deep interest on campus



Lathyrus sylvestris major = *Cicerchia salvatica*. [flat peavine; narrow leaved everlasting pea], The Anatomy of Plants (1890)

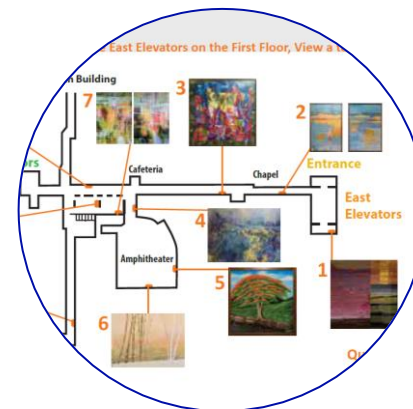
Challenges

- Developing clarity of purpose
- Collaborating and supporting very busy faculty-clinicians and students
- Student and staff turnover
- Keeping momentum going for all-volunteer effort
- Limited funding and resources
- Appealing to all three schools on campus (T.H. Chan School of Medicine, Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and the Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing)
- Limited integration in curriculum
- Raising awareness about the lab

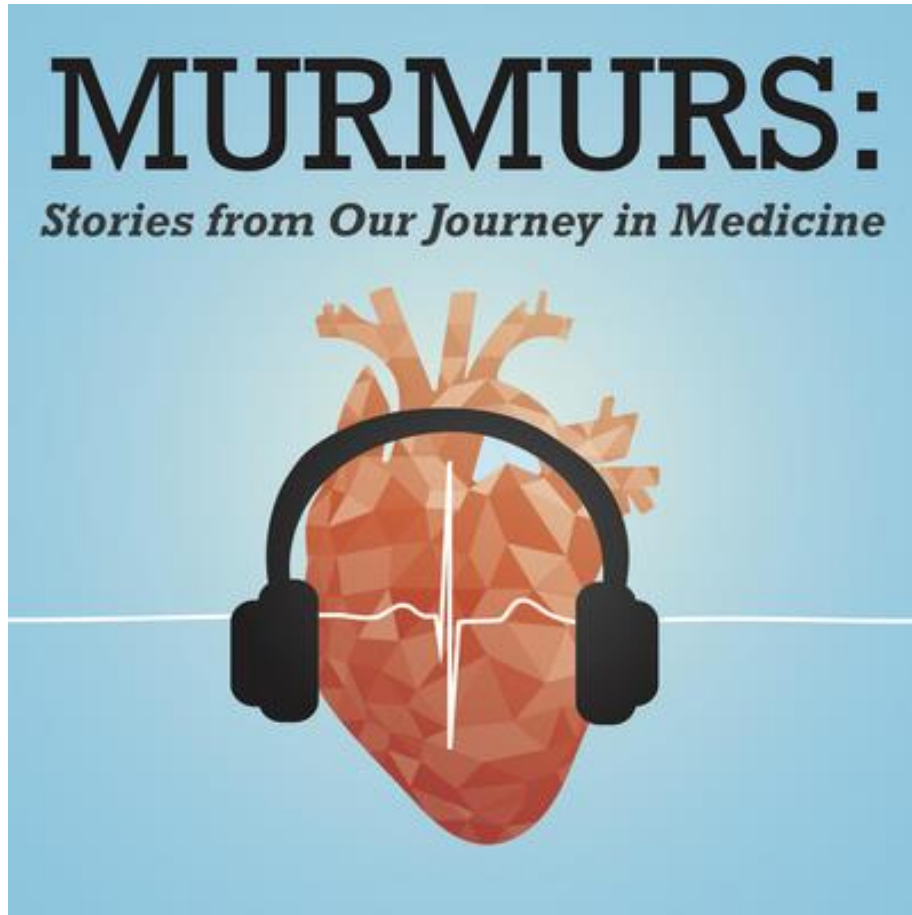




Projects Supported by the Lab



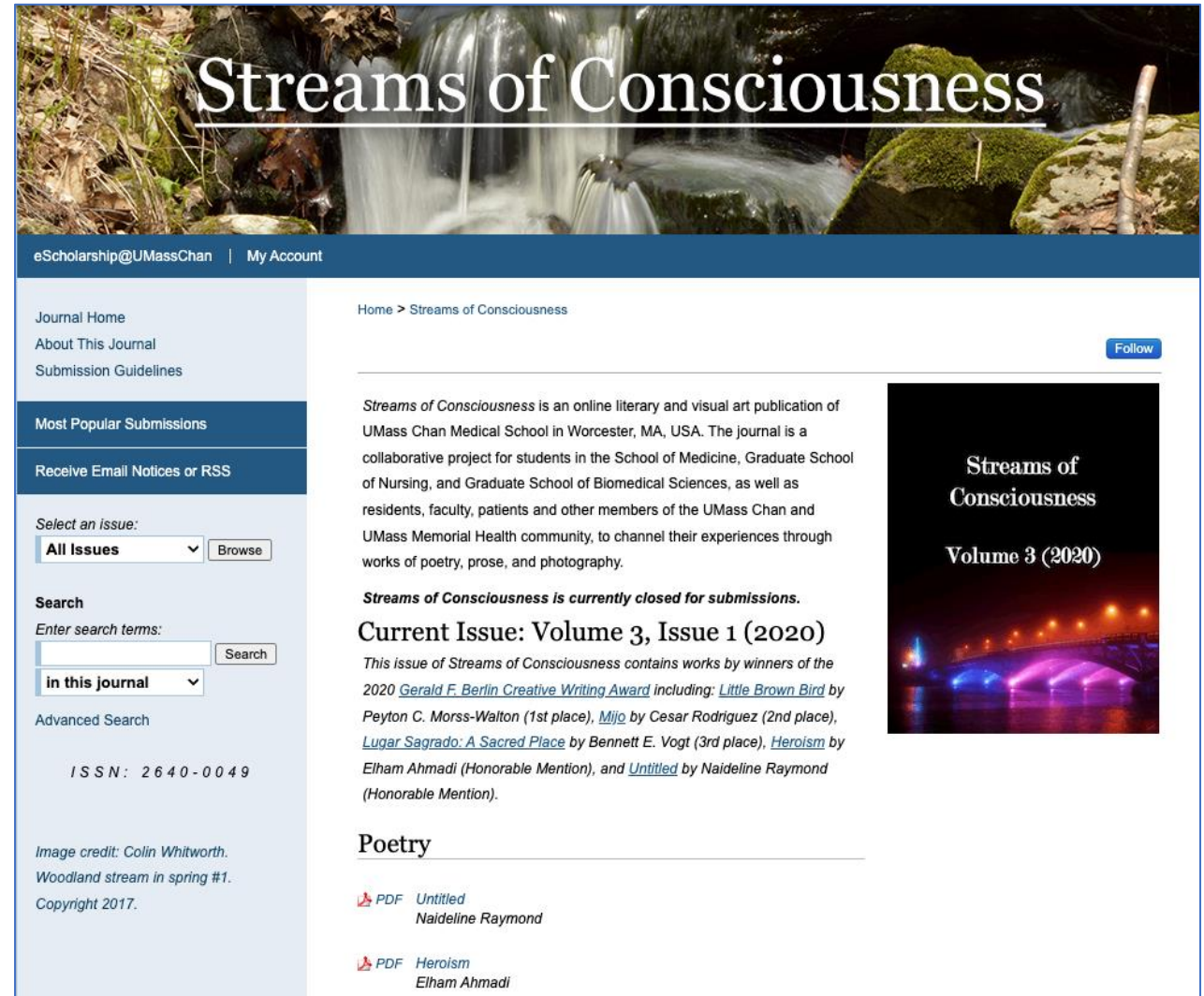
Murmurs: Stories from Our Journey in Medicine



- Narrative medicine podcast launched by 2 medical students in June 2020
- Library uses [Otter.ai](https://otter.ai) to transcribe each episode
- All 14 episodes streamed and archived in our institutional repository:
<https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/murmurs/>
- Over 17K downloads and streams to date from the repository
- Listen on Anchor:
<https://anchor.fm/murmurs-podcast>

Streams of Consciousness

- Online literary and visual art journal for UMass Chan community
- Published through institutional repository
- Challenge: student turnover and interest
- On hiatus as we seek new student editors



Streams of Consciousness

eScholarship@UMassChan | My Account

Journal Home
About This Journal
Submission Guidelines

Home > Streams of Consciousness

Follow

Streams of Consciousness is an online literary and visual art publication of UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester, MA, USA. The journal is a collaborative project for students in the School of Medicine, Graduate School of Nursing, and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, as well as residents, faculty, patients and other members of the UMass Chan and UMass Memorial Health community, to channel their experiences through works of poetry, prose, and photography.

Streams of Consciousness is currently closed for submissions.

Current Issue: Volume 3, Issue 1 (2020)

This issue of Streams of Consciousness contains works by winners of the 2020 [Gerald F. Berlin Creative Writing Award](#) including: [Little Brown Bird](#) by Peyton C. Morss-Walton (1st place), [Mijo](#) by Cesar Rodriguez (2nd place), [Lugar Sagrado: A Sacred Place](#) by Bennett E. Vogt (3rd place), [Heroism](#) by Elham Ahmadi (Honorable Mention), and [Untitled](#) by Naideline Raymond (Honorable Mention).

Poetry

PDF [Untitled](#)
Naideline Raymond

PDF [Heroism](#)
Elham Ahmadi

Image credit: Colin Whitworth.
Woodland stream in spring #1.
Copyright 2017.

ISSN: 2640-0049

<https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/soc/>

Med Moth

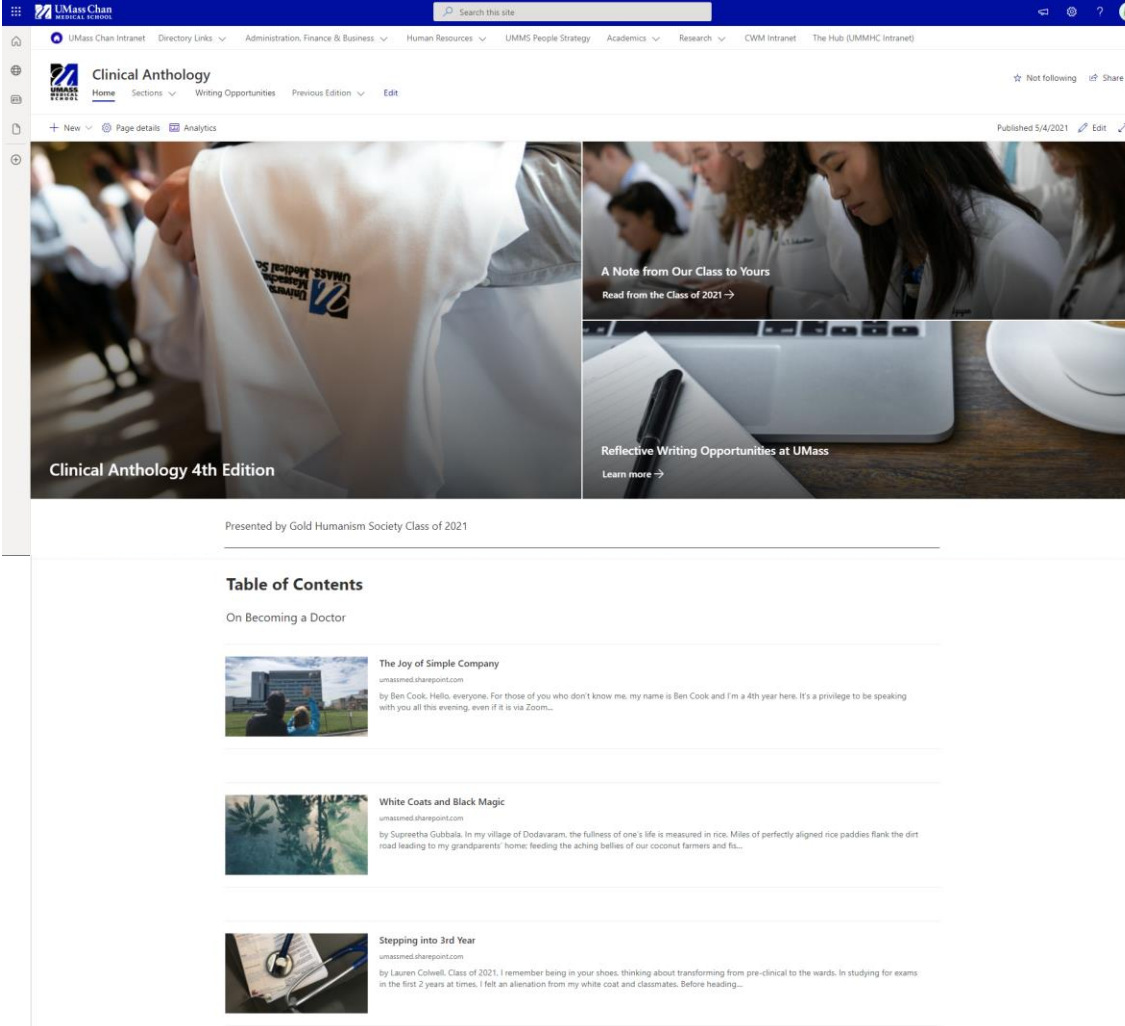
- Established 2016 by medical students
- Adapted from The Moth storytelling radio show and podcast
- Hold about 2 sessions per year
- Project supported by the library prior to the formation of the Medical Humanities Lab
- Resulted in a published article, “Med Moth: A Storytelling Platform for Improving Wellness in Medical Education”, by Michelle Silver, Sarah Ohnigian, Hugh Silk, Michael Ennis, and Judith Savageau (2022)



Clinical Anthology

Created by Dr. Dave Hatem, Tess Grynock, and the Gold Humanism Society

- Previously a physical book handed out to 3rd-year medical students
- Created the first digital edition in 2020, now in its 2nd edition as digital
- Library support to build site, copy content from physical book, and consult on copyright



The screenshot shows the 'Clinical Anthology' website on the UMass Chan Medical School intranet. The page features a navigation bar with links to 'Home', 'Sections', 'Writing Opportunities', 'Previous Edition', and 'Edit'. Below the navigation is a main content area with a large image of a white lab coat and a smaller image of students in a classroom. The main content area includes a 'Table of Contents' section with three entries: 'On Becoming a Doctor', 'The Joy of Simple Company' by Ben Cook, 'White Coats and Black Magic' by Supreetha Gubbala, and 'Stepping into 3rd Year' by Lauren Colwell. The page is presented by the Gold Humanism Society Class of 2021.

UMass Chan Medical School

Search this site

UMass Chan Intranet | Directory Links | Administration, Finance & Business | Human Resources | UMMS People Strategy | Academics | Research | CWM Intranet | The Hub (UMMHC Intranet)

Clinical Anthology

Home | Sections | Writing Opportunities | Previous Edition | Edit

New | Page details | Analytics

Published 5/4/2021 | Edit

Clinical Anthology 4th Edition

Presented by Gold Humanism Society Class of 2021

Table of Contents

On Becoming a Doctor

The Joy of Simple Company
unmassmed.sharepoint.com
by Ben Cook. Hello, everyone. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Ben Cook and I'm a 4th year here. It's a privilege to be speaking with you all this evening, even if it is via Zoom...

White Coats and Black Magic
unmassmed.sharepoint.com
by Supreetha Gubbala. In my village of Dodavaram, the fullness of one's life is measured in rice. Miles of perfectly aligned rice paddies flank the dirt road leading to my grandparents' home, feeding the aching bellies of our coconut farmers and...


Stepping into 3rd Year
unmassmed.sharepoint.com
by Lauren Colwell, Class of 2021. I remember being in your shoes, thinking about transforming from pre-clinical to the wards. In studying for exams in the first 2 years at times, I felt an alienation from my white coat and classmates. Before heading...

2020 Hindsight

Compiled by Megan Hansen and Bronwyn Wada-Gill


ABOUT POETRY & REFLECTION GALLERY SOUND OF 2020

2020 HINDSIGHT




PERCY SLEDGE
WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN
Lyrics by Curtis Lewis, Andrew Siegel

Show me a woman
When a man loves a woman
When a man loves a woman
When a man loves a woman
When a man loves a woman
When a man loves a woman
When a man loves a woman
When a man loves a woman
When a man loves a woman
When a man loves a woman




Sara Wang
2 min

reflections on a new garment
My short white coat is too big. I




Anonymous
2 min

A Hospital Room
Here I am again, holding your hand
in this cold hospital room where



Bronwyn Wada-Gill
1 min

When a Man Loves a Woman
When a man loves a woman he



Art Walks at UMass Memorial

- Walks designed by Hillary Mullan in consultation with the art curator for UMass Memorial
- Collaboration with physical therapy
- Walks with map and art information in the form of a pamphlet



Seasonal Colors
15 Minutes 530 steps, 10 artworks

Start at the East Elevators on the First Floor, View a textile work before walking down the long corridor to the left

1st Floor

To Jaquith Building

West Elevators

South Elevators

East Elevators

Chapel

Cafeteria

Amphitheater

Entrance

1 Scenes from a Summer by Ann Brauer

2 Summer by Karen Reid

3 Into the Garden by Andrae Green

4 Spring Musings by Sue Dion

5 Camino Real by Francisco Rivera

6 Winter Sunset over Wachusett Mountain by Len Haug

7 Superimposition by Heather Lenz

8 Wachusett by Pam Redick

9 Vigor by Sarah Alexander

10 Plum Island by Ella Delyanis

Questions:
What do the colors tell you about the seasons?
Did you feel the change of seasons in the artwork?



THE HUMAN SIDE (OF MEDICINE)

By Rose Schutzberg

- Blog and podcast
- Profiles of health professionals



THE INTERSTITIUM

Reflections Along the Path of Medicine

ALBERT "ALBIE"
SHERMAN CENTER

- Created by Marya Pulaski. Current editor is Megan Hansen.
- Multi-media blog
- Reflections from all UMass Chan community members accepted
- Library support to advertise the blog and solicit submissions

Family Medicine Moments

- Organized by Dr. Hugh Silk
- Previously called the Thursday Morning Memo
- Reflections on meaningful moments in care of patients, teaching, or life from Family Medicine & Community Health students, residents, and faculty.
- Library provides support for archiving the memos and moments.

WAM Rx

Objectives

- Implement a pilot museum prescription (Rx) program as a collaboration between primary care physicians at UMass Chan and the Worcester Art Museum (WAM)
- Program provides physicians the ability to prescribe free museum visits to patients who may bring with them a caregiver or family member. These social prescriptions may be written as adjunctive non-medical therapy for patients experiencing chronic pain, cognitive decline, or who broadly may benefit from activities which serve to promote health and wellbeing.
- Encourage patients to participate in arts-based programing and decrease barriers for sustained cultural engagement as means to enhance health, well-being, flourishing.
- Encourage local arts and cultural organizations in Worcester to make health and well-being an integral part of their work and to promote awareness of arts and health.
- Strengthen the line of referral and communication between physicians and arts programs in Worcester.



Gerald F. Berlin Prize

- Established in 2005

<https://www.richardmberlin.com/poetry/gerald-f-berlin-creative-writing-award>

- Award is for creative writing as prose or poetry.
- Submissions are accepted from students from across the institution.



Measures of Success

“While as leaders, we can be idea people, the library staff has been invaluable in their support, their leg work and their investment in these projects---promoting them, providing technical skills for establishing SharePoint sites, helping to track our tasks, and helping to organize our work.”

David Hatem, MD, UMass Chan Medical School

“The librarians have been very dedicated to our efforts adding a level of organization, promotion, and support that makes the work possible. Students are the ultimate beneficiaries - they have created Capstone projects that are meaningful to them and their colleagues including a student blog, a podcast, A Caring Committee, an annual Anthology of writing - all of which are directly affected by the efforts of the library and the Humanities Lab.”

Hugh Silk, MD, UMass Chan Medical School



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the members of the Humanities Lab and the support of our library colleagues, especially Kristine Sjostedt, without whose participation the Humanities Lab and various projects would not have been possible.

References

Palmer LA, Grynoch T, Raboin R. Opening Medical Humanities to the World: Reflecting on Library Support for the Medical Humanities Lab. Poster presentation at the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 2021 Virtual Conference, April 2021.

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Silver, M., Ohnigian, S., Silk, H., Ennis, M., & Savageau, J. (2022). Med Moth: A Storytelling Platform for Improving Wellness in Medical Education. *International Journal of Medical Students* 9(4), 300–303.

<https://doi.org/10.5195/ijms.2021.1070>

Questions?



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https://works.bepress.com/regina_raboin/

Brainstorm

- Which ideas in the presentation resonate with you?
- Do you have additional ideas for the UMass Chan Humanities Lab?
- How does your library support medical humanities?
- What initiatives do you support that works well for incorporating medical humanities into the curriculum?
- What library services or skills are currently untapped opportunities to support medical humanities at your institution?