At the beginning of 2018, Medical Ethics and Humanities became a program in the Division of General Internal Medicine. The Division of Medical Ethics and Humanities was founded in 1989 and represents one of the most robust multidisciplinary collaborations at the University, now with 12 faculty members from 8 departments. Jeffrey Botkin, MD, MPH who has led the Program (formerly Division) since 2009, will step away from this position as of June 2018, as part of a planned transition. Gretchen Case, PhD, MA, will step into the position of chief of the Program. The transition from a Division of Internal Medicine to a Program will not impact the activities of the affiliated faculty or staff.

Our PMEH faculty, staff, and associates bring interdisciplinary perspectives on medicine and health care from philosophy, law, communication, English, performance studies, disability studies, nursing, and pharmacy, as well as the medical specialties of pediatrics, psychiatry, and critical care. Faculty in our program have received national and international recognition for their research, including groundbreaking work on the legal treatment of psychopathy and on “humanizing” ICU care, and two of our faculty hold the rank of Distinguished Professor.

We teach widely in the School of Medicine and across the Health Sciences campus, including elective courses such as “Health Law for Non-Lawyers” and “Writing the Doctor-Patient Relationship.” We offer graduate and continuing medical education ranging from noon conferences focused on ethical issues to regular Evening Ethics discussions to monthly meetings of the Physicians Literature and Medicine reading group. Our program collaborates frequently with other campus entities, including the Huntsman Cancer Institute, the School of Law, the Department of Philosophy, UtahPresents, and the University Museum of Fine Arts, as well as Intermountain Health Care and other institutions beyond the University.

Our mission continues, uninterrupted: To prepare physicians and allied health professionals to provide respectful, humane patient care and to address current ethical problems in health care through education, research, and professional service. As a Program, we are excited to continue developing shared and individual research projects and finding new collaborations with the larger community.

**A Note from Outgoing PMEH Chief, Jeffrey Botkin, MD, MPH**

It has been my great privilege to serve as Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics and Humanities since 2008 following the retirement of our founding Chief, Jay Jacobson. (For administrative purposes, we have recently made a transition to become the Program in Medical Ethics and Humanities (PMEH) although this will not affect any of our activities or support from the Department of Internal Medicine.) During my time as Chief, we have expanded the faculty affiliated with the Program from 5 to 12, now including members from Philosophy, Law, Psychiatry, the College of Nursing, the College of Pharmacy, Pediatrics, and, of course, Internal Medicine. We also have established a strong core in the medical humanities with the recruitment of Gretchen Case in 2010 and Susan Sample in 2016. This combination of disciplines to include bioethics, medicine, law, philosophy, and the humanities makes us the premier interdisciplinary program on campus, bringing a range of essential considerations for the education and training of clinicians. We are strongly rooted in the curriculum for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and continue to expand our teaching activities. As part of my personal transition, I also will be reducing my time as Associate VP for Research Integrity and focusing my efforts on research, writing, and professional service. I will be here for quite a few more years to support our mission. My warm thanks to my wonderful friends and colleagues in the PMEH for this opportunity to work together building this outstanding program. I have the highest confidence in Gretchen as our new Chief. She brings new energy and creativity to our team and promise of many fun and fascinating years to come.
J. Nwando Olayiwola of the University of California, San Francisco and RubiconMD came to the University of Utah School of Medicine as a guest speaker on April 5-6, 2018 to share her work on issues of race and burnout in health care. Dr. Olayiwola spoke to second-year medical students as part of the Layers of Medicine course (watch video here) and had two lunches with students interested in how race, ethnicity, and other parts of our identities can affect the ways in which providers are perceived and are able to offer health care. On April 5, she led an Evening Ethics discussion titled, “Racism and Discrimination in Medicine - When the Physician is the ‘Victim,’” which prompted robust and thoughtful discussion among the 30+ people who attended from across campus and the wider community. This discussion included the importance of paying special attention to both the silent curriculum and to our own implicit biases. (Try taking the Harvard Implicit Bias test here.) People warned of a cultural identity tax, where one person of a particular race, gender, disability, or minority, is asked or assigned to represent the views of that entire group for an organization; others spoke of situations in which they were afraid to speak up—notably in professional settings—where it may cost them their jobs or livelihoods; All stressed the need for buy in from those people most in power. Dr. Olayiwola concluded with a simple, 3 point take home message: (1) Assess where your biases are (2) Analyze the policies of your institution carefully to see if they really help (3) Be an ally and voice for advocacy. Dr. Olayiwola’s expertise and viewpoint were very welcome as we continue to work to train health care providers who are attentive to how their identities and those of their patients matter in so many ways. We hope to host her again in the future and to continue these difficult and important conversations.

Layers of Medicine – Artwork by Medical Students

April 17 – May 18, 2018
Main and Upper Levels, Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library
Open during Library hours

The Eccles Health Sciences Library (EHSL) is now featuring the Layers of Medicine exhibit of art created by medical school students enrolled in the Layers of Medicine course which addresses the human elements of healthcare and medical training that are “layered” on top of scientific knowledge and clinic skills. Stop by during Library hours (perhaps on your way to or from a class/meeting in HSEB) to see this amazing collection of artistic interpretations of the human side of medicine in which burnout, death, disability, gender, ethics, the art of giving and receiving medical care, and much more are explored through art and artistic expression. The Library’s Main and Upper Levels will be home to this interactive and engaging display of student work until May 18th. Experience disease as one facet contributing to the unique and perfect “circle” of your patient, watch the stages of grief reveal themselves within a single photo, contemplate the importance of listening fully as a patient speaks, and feel the impact of self-esteem taking a “hit” during medical school. For more information see https://library.med.utah.edu/blog/eccles/2018/04/19/layers-of-medicine-artwork-by-medical-students-april-17-may-18-2018/
Does Medical Humanities Still Bridge Only “Two Cultures?”

With Louis Borgenicht, MD, Susan Sample, PhD, MFA, and Gretchen Case, PhD

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
5:30pm-7pm, Research Administration Building Room #117

In 1959 British novelist and scientist C.P. Snow gave a lecture which fomented much commentary and discussion over the years. In “The Two Cultures” he argued, "The intellectual life of the whole of Western society is increasingly being split into two polar groups…literary intellectuals at one pole--at the other scientists…between the two a gulf of mutual incomprehension.”

In 1986, Louis Borgenicht, MD wrote an essay trying to assimilate these thoughts between the literary intellectuals (humanists) and scientists (physicians.) Is this cultural divide relevant to medicine in the 21st century? We will discuss his article, “Medicine Between Two Cultures,” look at current critical responses to C.P. Snow’s paradigm in medical contexts, and explore a new cultural divide between medical humanities and health humanities. These distinctions affect how we educate healthcare providers and trainees and ultimately, the delivery of healthcare.

Background Readings for this session: (Please contact linda.carrlee@hsc.utah.edu for copies.)


Pre-implantation Genetic Testing with IVF: Who Benefits?

With Erin Rothwell, PhD

Wednesday, May 2, 2018
5:30pm-7pm, Research Administration Building Room #117

The past several years have shown a steady increase in the use of pre-implantation genetic testing for aneuploidy (PGT-A) in women undergoing in vitro fertilization (IVF). In this procedure, the embryos are not evaluated for specific genetic conditions such as sickle cell disease or cystic fibrosis, but for chromosomal aneuploidy, and presence of too many or too few chromosomes. The growing presence of this practice in reproductive medicine merits attention not only because there are no national recommendations for use of PGT-A, but also because it raises a host of ethical, legal and social concerns relevant to practitioners, expectant parents, and policy-makers. Some of these include: the routinization of testing and informed consent, challenges relating to the scope and delivery of genetic counseling, especially given the prevalence of mosaic embryos; the widening of social and economic disparities; and an array of policy issues, such as provider liability, regulatory oversight, and impact on the advancement of disability rights.

Background readings for this session: (contact linda.carrlee@hsc.utah.edu for copies)

- Optional: “Preimplantation genetic screening: does it help or hinder IVF treatment and what is the role of the embryo?” by Kim Dao Ly & Ashok Agarwal & Zsolt Peter Nagy
Physicians Literature and Medicine Discussion Group

Wednesday, May 9, 2018
University of Utah Hospital Large Conference Room #W1220
6:00-8:30pm, Facilitated by Rachel Borup, PhD

No Apparent Distress: A Doctor’s Coming of Age on the Front Lines of American Medicine
by Rachel Pearson

Dr. Rachel Pearson’s experiences as a bilingual patient advocate in an abortion clinic inspired her to give up her plans to become a writer and instead enroll in medical school. Now, in her 2017 memoir, No Apparent Distress, Dr. Pearson has united her twin career goals. In this memoir, she writes movingly about her journey to becoming a cancer surgeon and the ethical problems she sees in the current American health care system, particularly the unequal treatment of poor people and people of color. Part coming-of-age story, part medical ethics discussion, Pearson’s book should be of interest to anyone who works in health care.

Wednesday, June 13, 2018
University of Utah Hospital Large Conference Room #W1220
6:00-8:30pm, Facilitated by Gretchen Case, PhD

Dreamland by Sam Quinones

Journalist Sam Quinones’ book Dreamland: The True Tale of America’s Opiate Epidemic covers the scorched path that heroin and prescription opiates have blazed across North America, connecting small towns in Mexico with small towns in the heartland of the U.S. Quinones finds the individual stories in the midst of corporate and criminal intrigue, connecting the many people affected by an epidemic that is still devastating many rural and suburban communities as often as urban areas.

Wednesday, July 11, 2018
University of Utah Hospital Large Conference Room #W1220
6:00-8:30pm, Facilitated by Jenny Cochrane, MA

Adventures in Human Being: A Grand Tour from the Cranium to the Calcaneum
by Gavin Francis

Dr. Gavin Francis is a General Practitioner and writer based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Before he became any of these things, however—even before he attended Medical School at the University of Edinburgh—he wanted to be a Geographer. It was his love of maps, atlases, landscapes, and his inexhaustible longing for discovery that led him to his study of the human body. After all, says Francis, “the two didn’t seem so different at first…” During his own professional training, Dr. Francis was a trainee Neurosurgeon, worked in Psychiatry, Oncology, and Ophthalmology, and also served as an expedition doctor for an excursion to Antarctica. These experiences—written in Dr. Francis’ lyrical, straightforward, Edinburgh tone—along with his study of philosophy, geography, basic science, literature, and classical thought, has given rise to the part-memoir, part-epic, part-atlas that is “Adventures in Human Being”. This book is an exciting, insightful look into our own being and the body we spend that “being” in from top to toe. You may never see yourself the same way again.

A recently updated 2018 Schedule of Readings can be found on our website at: http://medicine.utah.edu/internalmedicine/medicalethics/activities/literature/
**Resident Ethics Conferences**
Future Conferences TBD in May 2018

**The Physicians Literature and Medicine Discussion Group**
6:00-8:30 pm
U of U Hospital Large Conference Room #W1220
*No Apparent Distress: A Doctor’s Coming of Age on the Front Lines of American Medicine by Rachel Pearson*
Facilitated by by Rachel Borup, PhD

*Dreamland by Sam Quinones*
Facilitated by Gretchen Case, PhD, MA

*Adventures in Human Being: A Grand Tour from the Cranium to the Calcaneum by Gavin Francis*
Facilitated by Jenny Cochrane, MA

**Evening Ethics**
5:30-7:00pm
U of U RAB #117

*Pre-implantation Genetic Testing with IVF: Who Benefits?*
With Erin Rothwell, PhD

*Does Medical Humanities Still Bridge Only “Two Cultures?”*
With Louis Borgenicht, MD, Susan Sample, PhD, MFA, and Gretchen Case, PhD, MA

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**Keep The Date**

Raphael Campo, MD is coming to Utah November 29 to December 1st!

For more information on Raphael Campo, please see [https://www.rafaelcampo.com/](https://www.rafaelcampo.com/)

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PROGRAM OF MEDICAL ETHICS AND HUMANITIES

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On March 15, at the Central Utah Hospice & Palliative Care Conference, Provo, Susan Sample spoke on "Medical Ethics: Guiding Principles for Hospice Care." On April 5-6, at the U Center on Aging's 12th Annual Research Retreat, she offered a creative writing installation during the Poster Session and spoke on "Narrative Medicine: Enriching Medical Practice and Patient Well-Being." On April 22, at the International Health Humanities Consortium Conference at Stanford University, Susan Sample presented a paper on "The Corpse as Kairotic body: Transgressing the Medicalized Boundary between Life and Death to Re-Animate Physicians as Ethical Practitioners."

Gretchen Case is giving a talk on the Hippocratic Oath to the Ogden Surgical-Medical Society at their annual conference on May 18. She is presenting a “Health Humanities Portrait” about rural health to health care professional students in both May and June at University of Illinois-Chicago as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant on new ways of teaching patient narratives.

Peggy Battin participated in a Keynote debate with Thomas Joiner, moderated by Baltimore Ravens sportscaster Gerry Sandusky, "Physician Aid-in-Dying is not the same as Suicide" on April 19, at the 51st Annual Conference of the American Association of Suicidology.