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THE GOLD CONNECTION

Gold Humanism Honor Society — www.humanism-in-medicine.org

One GHHS Chapter's Year of Work and Fulfillment

Elizabeth A. England, MD Student Pres. (2010) ETSU James H. Quillen Chapter GHHS, reports on student-initiated chapter project: "The Patient's Voice."

We began to shape our project last summer. We wanted to remind colleagues of the importance of the patient's perspective in health and illness, to demonstrate the importance of the patient's story and to encourage thought and reflection concerning interactions with patients. We planned four themed events and follow-up.

Widening Audiences with Each Event

The first event was a movie night early in the academic year for the entire college of medicine featuring the documentary film *Life. Support. Music*. This documentary follows a patient and his family through the challenges of treatment for a life threatening brain injury. The film was attended by 175 medical and physical therapy students who participated in a discussion following the film with an accomplished family physician. Two required courses, one in the first year and the other in the second year, incorporated the film into coursework. Students wrote short reaction essays to the film to promote reflection and internalization of the messages discovered from viewing and discussing the film.

Look Me in the Eye

All other events were organized around inviting the New York Times bestselling author, John Elder Robison to ETSU for several speaking opportunities. In his book, *Look Me In the Eye*, Mr. Robison writes about growing up with undiagnosed Asperger's syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder in which patients maintain language and cognitive development. However,

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Now More Than Ever

We urge you— for yourselves and your institutions—to remember that humanism begins at home. Please take this opportunity created for you to replenish your energy and enthusiasm for this essential work we do together. This is the time to **come to Biennial 2010, October 7-9, Dallas/ Ft. Worth.**

After July 1, see www.humanism-in-medicine.org for registration, flight and hotel information.

CONFERENCE PRELUDE

SPEAKERS:

GRETCHEN BERLAND, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine - *Creating a Patient-Centered Health Care System in the Digital Era*

WILEY W. SOUBA, MD, ScD, MBA, Dean of the College of Medicine and Vice President and Executive Dean for Health Sciences at The Ohio State University - *Language of Leadership*

WORKSHOPS:

Charles Anderson, PhD: *We tell ourselves stories in order to live: A Workshop on Narrative, Memory, and Time*

Dan Shapiro, PhD: *The Video Slam: Medical student filmmaking to learn from patients with serious chronic illness*

Elizabeth Gaufberg, MD: *The Power of Third Things: Reflective Triggers in Medical Education*

Richard Tiberius, PhD and Jacqueline A. Mintz, PhD: *Creating Safety in Unsafe Places*

Robert B. Shochet, MD and Scott Wright, MD: *Medical School Learning Communities: A New Way to Support Humanism?*

Ronald Epstein, MD: *Promoting Mindful Practice to Improve Quality Care*

Daniel Hiroyuki Teraguchi, EdD: *Understanding Perceptions of Self and Our Biases: A Key Component to Eliminating Health Care Disparities*

Wiley W. Souba, MD, ScD, MBA and Mark A. Notestine, PhD: *Leading Again for the First Time*

Crucial Conversations™

Participants acquire the skills that help them handle high stake issues, training to effectively confront difficult conversations.



Michael A. Harrington, MD (GHHS 2006) with Haitian Ylfauker Viellard, a 23 year old patient who suffered a crush injury to his sacrum from rubble. He is now a paraplegic and was deemed dead after the injury and put in a morgue. He was found three days after the earthquake alive in the morgue when his cousin was looking for his body for a proper burial.

Penn State COM's GHHS chapter brings life skills to the clients of Downtown Daily Bread in Harrisburg, PA. Students developed and designed a presentation to help prepare individuals for job interviews. In addition, they provided health checks and friendly conversation.

Patrick R. Aguilar, MD (GHHS 2010) received the Gold-Headed Cane Award, the highest honor awarded to a graduating medical student at UTMB. The recipient was chosen by his classmates as the student who best exemplified the ultimate in patient care.

Linda Stone, MD, Co-Chair GHHS Planning Committee and Chair Biennial 2010 was selected by the Michigan State University Association Awards Committee to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award.

John Romond, MD (GHHS 2009) appears to be following in his father's footsteps in receiving the student Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award this year at the University of Kentucky COM. His father Edward received the award in 2003 as a faculty member of the U of KY.

Janine Edwards, PhD, is now Chair of the Department of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences at Florida State University COM.

Send us your news.

Resident Takes the Lead to Establish New GHHS Chapter

*Scott Shaffer, MD (GHHS 2006) Psychiatry Resident 2010
Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University*

During my first year of psychiatry residency at Brown, I was fortunate enough to see Drs. Arnold and Sandra Gold deliver a Neurology grand rounds. Afterwards, at a roundtable discussion with residents, I introduced myself to the Golds. We discussed how the medical school did not have a chapter of the GHHS, and how wonderful it would be to start one. As a proud member of the GHHS, the idea of bringing this organization to my new educational home was quite exciting. I set up a meeting with the associate dean of medical education, and pitched the idea to him. He was extremely receptive, and after discussing the idea with the administration, gave me the green light. I crafted an email to send to the entire student body describing the GHHS, and explaining why I was convinced it was a natural fit for Brown. I received many responses from students who signed up to attend an interesting meeting. I was so impressed by the students' excitement about the prospect of a Brown chapter of the GHHS. From this group of about ten-fifteen students emerged a group of four (three 1st years and one 2nd year) who were absolutely committed to the goal of creating a GHHS chapter at Brown. The students and I wrote a formal proposal, and submitted it to the administration. It was approved, and was then presented to the student senate. The vast majority of senate members were in favor of the idea, and the senate voted to approve the proposal as well. The final step was submitting the proposal to the Gold Foundation, and after some minor revisions, the proposal was approved and the Brown chapter of the GHHS was born!

Residents: You too can take the lead! Contact Harriet Turner.



West Virginia University School of Medicine's GHHS inductees 2010

Schools Choose Earlier GHHS Selection

Many GHHS chapter schools are making their GHHS selections during the third year of medical school after a number of clinical rotations have been completed. This is advantageous in two ways – 1) it allows collaboration between new inductees and 4th year GHHS members while they are still on campus and 2) encourages bonding of new inductees and affords enough time to complete meaningful projects before graduation.

Why wait until the induction ceremony to enter new inductees into the GHHS directory? Entry soon after selection allows members to receive national office communications early on.

Welcome New GHHS Chapter!

Meharry College of Medicine

HETA Winners Add Pride to GHHS

Medical students at schools with Student Clinician Ceremonies (SCC)— marking the transition from “books to bedside”—may have their students select up to six residents for the Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards (HETA). This award recognizes exemplars in these two key areas. Induction ceremonies of new GHHS members are ideal occasions to bring in HETA winners for induction and to acknowledge their accomplishments. Many of them will not have been inducted to GHHS before, but HETA winners, like the students, are all members of GHHS. We encourage schools to take this opportunity to recognize both groups and to affirm their rightful place within GHHS.



Kashmir Singh, MD receives her GHHS certificate at Creighton University School of Medicine's 2010 induction from Roger Brumback, MD, Chairman Pathology Dept. and P.J. Malin, MD, current GHHS Chapter President. Kashmir is also the recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.

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they have significant social difficulties, repetitive patterns of behavior, and restricted intense interests. *Look Me In the Eye* describes the hardships and adventures, overcoming his limitations, and ultimately his struggle to become a successful adult. He is now very active in Autism research at Beth Israel Medical Center, Boston, MA and an adjunct professor at Elms College where he teaches a course on the Asperger mind for the Masters of Autism program.

Our quest to reach the extended community was an invitation-only small group discussion for patients and families affected by Asperger's and Autism. Creating this opportunity required hours of work identifying community resources and affected families in order to communicate our plans and reach those who could benefit. Mr. Robison gave specific examples to families in order to help parents understand what coping methods are most helpful.

To reach a larger audience, the second event was a free lecture open to the public. Approximately 600 people attended including members of the healthcare community. Mr. Robison emphasized how his differences led to a misunderstanding, rejection and a chronic sense of failure. He spoke of how compassion was in short supply for much of his life but could have made an enormous difference if it had been consistently offered.

Active Listening

Finally, to address our objective of encouraging thought and reflection among our colleagues concerning interactions with patients and promoting a humanistic orientation to patient care, Mr. Robison met in a session exclusively devoted to conversation with members of the medical school. There were 80 students, faculty and residents in attendance. He focused on what physicians can learn from the patient's voice about working humanistically and effectively with patients with differences such as Asperger's Disorder. He recounted the major effect the syndrome has had on his life and his perception of the healthcare received throughout the years. Comments included: "To have heard this story from an actual patient rather than any other lecturer definitely changed my perspective of the information presented. This has sparked my interest in autistic spectrum disorders, and I plan on reading/learning more about them so that I can be more sensitive to these issues in the future."

All the presentations discussed the need to advocate for patients and demonstrated how essential it is to focus on the patient's welfare, understand individual differences, and treat everyone with compassion. Our hope is that the exposure to Mr. Robison will improve ETSU's future physicians' ability to care for and identify with their patients. This is just one example of how the Gold Humanism Honor Society impacts far more than the medical community; the society has a great impact on individual lives and community organizations. Each member of GHHS gained enormous personal and professional satisfaction and a great sense of reward from this project. We worked hard but experienced the fulfillment that derives from feeling that a truly significant task has been achieved.

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Send it to GHHS@gold-foundation.org
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