



AN INITIATIVE OF THE ARNOLD P. GOLD FOUNDATION
GHHS Founders: The Russell Berrie Foundation – The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Anonymous

VOLUME VI, SUMMER 2008

THE GOLD CONNECTION*

*Our Newsletter has a name! "Communication - the human connection is the key to career success." ~ Paul Meyer

Ideas and Inspiration

Untitled, written by Jeffrey M. Phillips, MD

For lack of a better medical description, Sasha was unrecognizable. Along with the plastic surgery resident, I inconspicuously scanned a slightly worn photograph of our patient, secured to the hospital room tackboard, and then looked over to the supine patient in front of us. These had to be two different people. Sasha was the unfortunate victim of a late-night high-speed motor vehicle collision, being hit by yet another drunk driver in the opposing car. She had sustained multiple cranial and facial fractures that left her facial construct a minor jigsaw puzzle of its former shape. She would undergo 3-4 facial reconstructions by the ENT facial plastics team and oculoplastics surgeons. She just underwent the first of her surgeries – a wiring of her jaw shut to heal the multiple mandibular fractures. I was assigned to remove some of the brow stitches and cranial staples by my resident, who left the room to attend to procedures down the hall.

Suddenly, I felt that alone and awkward feeling that I hadn't felt since my first years of medical school. I
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Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards

This year over 85 medical schools participated in this award program presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. Each school nominates one graduating medical student and one faculty member to receive this unique award that honors compassion and humanism in every day patient care. The faculty recipient sets the standard for the quality of teaching and mentorship at the school and the student stands as an example of how the human touch in clinical care is valued at the institution.



Tow student awardee Dr. Thomas Bramwell Welch-Horan pins faculty recipient Dr. Joseph Haddad, Jr. at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons while Dr. Arnold P. Gold looks on.

Feedback recently received about the Leonard Tow Program:

"The awards emphasize the importance of humanism in providing quality medical care and each year recreate that awareness in the graduating class, the student body at large, and the faculty and administration...I think that all of the involved individuals stop and think about what it truly means to be a good physician (humanistic and scientific) and there is a commitment made to foster this value in our students and our own practices."

University of North Dakota

One Leonard Tow recipient advised, "...I am putting the check value towards an endowment I want to start for a graduating senior at Boston University Medical School in memory of my parents."

It is not too late to register for GHHS BIENNIAL 2008

Our third biennial meeting –
Creating Cultures for Humanistic Medicine –
Our role in furthering humanistic learning environments
will be held September 25-27
at the Westin O'Hare in Chicago.
Contact Harriet Turner
harriet@gold-foundation.org
for more information



Welcome to our Newest GHHS Chapters

Baylor College of Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
New York Medical College
Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University
St. Louis University School of Medicine
Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine

Ideas and Inspiration

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tried to nervously and foolishly attempt conversation. What was I supposed to say to ease this person's obvious tragedy? I explained that I would be careful as I removed the stitches, and made some comments at how wonderful it was to have such a beautiful family, referring to the photographs on the bedside table. She nodded gently, with some minor exasperation, as she looked straight at me — in an effort to speak, despite the braces.

After what seemed like an hour of carefully removing each staple and stitch, down to the last piece of metal, my task was finally finished. I realized I was likely babbling to myself the entire time, in an effort to make conversation to ease my own feelings of awkwardness. "Now, you might get through the airport metal detector without a sound!" I joked...and she chuckled a quiet laugh between clenched teeth.

When I was about to leave, I turned around and said, "Sasha, I just wish I could do more for you right now...I'm sorry." With her free hand, she beckoned me near to her and scrambled for a pen that lay under a half-folded sheet at her side. She grasped it and wrote carefully on a torn page of *Cosmopolitan* magazine: "Just being with me and talking to me like a person—it's more than anyone has done and anyone can hope for. Thank you for you."

GHHS Advisor Survey Results

Thirty-three of the 70 (now 72) GHHS chapters participated in this survey. Strengths and challenges of the Society were identified and the challenges are being addressed. A top priority was communication among chapters. Perfect timing — our Biennial Meeting is coming up in September. Don't miss this opportunity to be with other GHHS members from all over of the country.



Note to GHHS Advisors

Please reach out to your new residents at your institution to welcome them to their new GHHS chapter and seek their participation in your school's activities.

The GHHS Directory

You have repeatedly heard about this Directory going live soon, but this time may be the last time you hear of that promise because it is about to be a *fait accompli*.

Advisors: Watch for an email with instructions

Members: Check out this site and update your profile information.

<http://directory.ghhs-apgf.org/goldfoundation/Main.aspx>



You asked for it!

Many schools have requested examples of community activities or projects that they can do at their school with funding from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. Here are two recent projects.

The GHHS Chapter at the University of California, San Diego planned a successful inaugural GHHS Grand Rounds talk entitled, "Making Connection: The Art and Science of Compassion." Two lectures by Dr. James Duffy, "Chiron's Cave: The Journey to Becoming a Healer" and "Making Connection: The Science and Art of Compassion" were well attended. The idea of humanism in medicine was validated by both a developmental model proposed in the "Chiron's Care" talk and by the neuroscience research present in the "Art and Science of Compassion" talk.

The event was planned and coordinated by the GHHS chapter in conjunction with the SOM Office of Student Affairs. The lectures were promoted by email and flyers sent to all students and faculty as well as various departments. Objectives were

- Learn the neural substrates of empathy and compassion
- Learn how our modern healthcare system impacts our ability to be empathic towards our patients and each other
- Identify practical ways to enhance their empathy and improve their job satisfaction and personal wellness

The University of Wisconsin GHHS chapter put together humanism-in-medicine stories, poems, and reflections from medical students, residents, faculty and patients in a booklet entitled, "Chicken Soup for the UW Medical Student Soul" to be given to all medical students in the pockets of their white coats during the White Coat Ceremony. (See our Ideas and Inspirations column for a sample.) Clinical pearls were included in a separate section to create opportunities for students to reach for the pocketbook while on the wards reminding themselves about their patient encounters from the humanistic perspective.

During initial stages, solicitation was made for submissions. Live announcements were made to all medical, nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant and physical therapy students. Emails were sent to all related health professional email lists including medical students for contributions. Some contributions came from creation of a writers' circle.

Booklets were distributed to 136 graduates, contributors and key participants in the project. In the fall of 2008, the first year class will receive the booklets at the White Coat Ceremony. An electronic copy was also posted on the medical student website.

For further information how your school can do one of these projects, contact Christine Moutier, MD at the University of CA, San Diego or Sharon Younkin, Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. Better yet, come to the Biennial and learn first hand how you can make projects like these happen with support from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jean Lantz accepted a new position as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at the University of IL COM in Chicago.

GHHS member **Megan Krause** received a \$15,000 Scholar Award from the national Philanthropic Education Organization, an international organization that promotes educational opportunities for women.

Dr. Todd R. Cheever, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at University of KY COM is spending time in Africa this summer to be part of international medical relief work to help children in Zambia who lost their parents to the AIDS epidemic.

Tell us your news to print here.