

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP  
PDI MEDICAL HUMANITIES

- I. WHAT IS MEDICAL HUMANITIES?
  - A. Use of literature and the arts to teach about certain aspects of medical professionalism: doctor-patient communication, empathy, doctor-patient relationship, ethical decision-making
  - B. In 1994, coursework in this area at 1/3 of U.S. medical schools; now offered at ¾ of U.S. schools
  
- II. WHY LITERATURE?
  - A. Stories are the way in which people make sense of their experience; the more we are sensitive to patients' stories, the more we can grasp their subtleties, the better clinicians we become
  - B. Fictional literature is useful because
    - 1. Carefully crafted – rich, compact; a good way of accessing themes, feelings
    - 2. Transitional object – safety factor
    - 3. Allows us to develop narrative knowledge of language, tone, metaphor; plot; theme
  
- III. OVERVIEW OF PDI MEDICAL HUMANITIES
  - A. Required
    - 1. Module-linked readings
    - 2. Two point-of-view writing assignments (Pain; Geriatrics)
      - a. Example of poem
  - B. Elective
  
- IV. HOW TO INTEGRATE THE READING
  - A. Ask someone to briefly summarize the reading, or summarize it yourself or
  - B. If very short, bring it and read during group discussion
  - C. Refer to the reading in relation to a point being made in the module: "In the literary selection 'When You Come Into My Room,' the author also asks to be seen as a whole person, not simply a diagnosis."
  - D. Use the reading as a way of practicing a particular skill: "What might you say to someone like Stephen Schmidt to show him you empathize with his situation?"
  
- V. DISCUSSION OF MODULE 1 READING