

**PD III – Doctoring Rounds**  
**Ambulatory Medicine Clerkship**  
**Patient-student stories**

The focus of this session will be on the context and meaning of health care. To facilitate discussion, each student will construct a patient-student story. This should include a description of the patient's current illness, the meaning of illness in that patient's life, and your role as a medical student, in that patient's life. Each student should interview a willing patient to collect the information needed to construct this narrative and should address issues related to family and friends, religion, personal values, and experience of illness. This interview should include the usual elements of a patient history, but should focus on a more in depth review of social history. The following are offered as sample questions:

- 1) How does your state of health affect your life? On a daily basis?, The big picture?
- 2) What gives your life meaning? (What is important in your life?)
- 3) Are you a religious person? Are you a spiritual person? If so, what are your beliefs? Do your beliefs help you deal with illness? Do you belong to a religious or spiritual community? If so, what does it mean to you or how does it help you?
- 4) What goals do you have for the future?
- 5) What fears or worries do you have? In general? About being sick?
- 6) What are your thoughts about death? Have you given much thought to it?
- 7) How would you like your health care providers to address these issues when caring for you?

**Assignment** (to be used for discussion and collected at the end of the session):

- 1) Complete written responses to the questions above about yourself.
- 2) Select a patient and complete a written description predicting the patient's responses to the questions above.
- 3) Interview that patient and complete a written description of the patient's responses to the questions above.
- 4) Use the information about yourself, your perceptions of your patient, and the information the patient provided to construct a short narrative about the patient and your role in that patient's life.

**Background Readings:**

- 1) Schmidt, SA, When You Come Into My Room, *JAMA* 276:7 (August 21, 1996) 512
- 2) Crichton, M, *Travels*, NY: Ballantine Books, 1988.