

POETRY IN THE CLINIC: INTEGRATION OF POETRY AT FHC-ANAHEIM

Overview: The overall goal of this pilot program is to introduce beauty, lightness, insight, and consolation into the clinic setting through the use of appropriate poetry in English and Spanish. In its initial stages, the program will be voluntary, but is open to participation by attendings, staff, learners, and patients.

Three interrelated but distinct foci for program:

- I. **Faculty and 3rd year student**
 - A. **When used:** As focus/complement to precepting
 - B. **Topics:** Challenging clinical issues and student concerns
 1. Difficult patient-doctor interactions
 2. Doctor-patient relationship
 3. “Noncompliance”
 4. Chronic disease
 5. Physician stress and burn-out

- II. **Attendings and clinical staff**
 - A. **When used:** As introduction to staff meeting
 - B. **Topic I:** Organizational issues and clinical concerns
 1. Difficult patient-clinician interactions
 2. Clinician-patient relationship
 3. Clinician stress and burn-out
 4. Health team relationships
 - C. **Topic II:** Beauty and lightness
 1. Nature poems
 2. Humorous poems

- III. **Student and patient**
 - A. **When used:** in waiting room or exam room before doctor arrives
 - B. **Topic I:** Patient’s experience of illness, medical encounter
 1. Doctor-patient relationship
 2. “Noncompliance”
 3. Chronic disease
 - C. **Topic II:** Beauty and lightness
 1. Nature poems
 2. Humorous poems

- IV. **Research and Evaluation**
 - A. Develop feedback/evaluation mechanisms for students, staff, patients
 - B. Decide whether to submit an IRB

ACTION ITEMS

- A. **Tran**
 1. Introduce FHC-Anaheim staff to concept of “poetry in clinic,” assess level of interest/receptivity (point out benefits to patients, learners, staff)
 2. Identify 1-2 staff who can advise re relevance, reading level/language, appropriateness of selected poems

3. Ask about value of using lyrics from popular songs
4. Make list of topics for attending/student to address through poetry, send to Johanna/Gabriella
5. Select possible poems, scan, and send to Johanna/Gabriella

B. Johanna

1. Identify poems related to above topics, scan, and send to Tan/Gabriella

C. Gabriella

1. Identify poems related to above topics (including own poetry), scan and send to Tan/Johanna