

Dan, you have stated one of the dilemmas facing the medical humanities with exceptional eloquence. The bad news is that "science" (I use quotations because I think we are actually talking more about an idea of science, or an algorithm of science, rather than about the real complexity and creativity of science per se) has become both a powerful and a comfortable framework from which to view the world. (Suchman brilliantly dissects the psychological mechanisms which make it difficult to wean physicians - and I would add medical educators - from the logico-scientific model [1]). The good news is, as Rachel Naomi Remen likes to say, medicine is bigger than science (and life is bigger than science). Because all of us, humanists, narratologists, basic scientists, and clinicians alike, share a common humanity, at some point we bump up against the limits of our models, and search around for ways of enlarging and expanding how we understand the world. All it takes is a little courage! Johanna

1. Suchman AL. Story, medicine, and healthcare. *Adv Mind Body Med.* 2000;16(3):193-8.