The Empathic Doctor

An interdisciplinary conference exploring the relationship between the physician and patient from a variety of perspectives: historical, literary, clinical, and linguistic

APRIL 10, 2010   9:00AM-5:00PM
1309 HEALTH SCIENCES LEARNING CENTER

9:00AM-9:15AM
The Empathic Doctor: Welcome
- James Cleary, MD, Professor of Medicine, introduction to conference

9:15AM-10:45AM
Empathy and Sympathy: A Historical Perspective
- Anne Vila, Chair of French and Italian, on eighteenth-century methods of diagnosis and the risk of losing oneself in the patient
- Rachel Brenner, Hebrew Studies, on the difficulties of portraying trauma and feeling empathy in films about the Holocaust
- David Rakel, Family Medicine, Process vs. Pill: How Clinician Empathy Can Trump the Power of the Pill

11:00AM-12:50PM
Empathy and AIDS: Personal, Literary, Cultural Contexts
- Bennett Vogelman, Infectious Disease, "A Personal Story"
- Theresa Pesavento, French and Italian, on literary portrayals of AIDS in post-colonial Africa
- Severino Albuquerque, Spanish and Portuguese, on the Carandiru Penitentiary in Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Stephanie Youngblood, English, on the theoretical limits of empathy and AIDS in the queer community

2:00PM-3:30PM
Empathy and Pain: Pain’s Resistance to Description
- June Dahl, Pharmacology, on the treatment of pain, its public health implications, and the pain scale
- Miroslav Backonja, Neurology, Feeling the Other Person’s Pain: Empathy in Diagnosis and Treatment of Pain
- Kyra Landzelius, Medical Anthropology, Chalmers University/Gothenburg University, “Pain and Its Ventriloquists”: the Politics of Pain - who owns it and how it is ventriloquized

4:00PM-5:00PM
Round Table featuring practicing physicians on their experience of clinical empathy

Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be served.

To register, please visit
For more information, please visit
http://www.med.wisc.edu/empathicdoctor

Sponsored by the Brittingham Trust, the Gold Humanism Honor Society, and the Department of French and Italian