

Approved by the Curriculum Committee May 17, 2023
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Scholarly Concentration: Medical Humanities/Narrative Medicine

“Cooper Medical School of Rowan University is committed to providing humanistic education in the art and science of medicine...”

So begins the mission statement of CMSRU, and this commitment is reflected in widely varied interests and humanistic educational offerings of the faculty, many of whom are affiliated with the Center for Humanism in Medicine. The humanistic practice of medicine emphasizes the centrality of human experience in illness and healing. Excellent physicians must be capable biologists and must also recognize this centrality of human experience in applying their scientific knowledge. This scholarly concentration will allow medical students to deepen their exploration of human experience in medicine, including patient, practitioner, and other perspectives.

Co-Directors: Douglas Reifler, MD, Mara Gordon, MD
Other faculty: Many from the Center for Humanism in Medicine

Goal: This scholarly concentration will develop students’ knowledge and skills in medical humanities and narrative, with application to humanistic medical education and practice.

Objectives: Upon completion of this scholarly concentration, students will be able

- to describe a range of medical humanities domains and their relation to humanistic medicine.
- to reflect on their own varied experiences in medicine in meaningful ways.
- to portray the perspectives of patients, family members, and others involved in healthcare, including those who are disadvantaged.
- to write, draw, perform, or otherwise display skill in one or more medical humanities realms.
- to describe the role of creativity and compassion in promoting wellbeing in medicine.
- to lead an activity or activities for others in medical humanities.
- to submit for presentation or publication a scholarly work in medical humanities.

Capacity: 6 students/class

Requirements

Within the MD curriculum, students must

- Complete two selective courses in medical humanities, one in each of the first two years.
- Complete the M3 elective “The Healer’s Art.”
- Complete the M4 elective “Literature and Medicine.”
- Identify a faculty mentor and complete a Capstone Project related to Humanism in Medicine in the Scholar’s Workshop, including an extramural poster presentation and/or article submission.

Outside the MD curriculum, students must

- Participate in eight Narrative Medicine workshops, leading one or more workshops.

--Contribute to *The Asclepian*.

--Attend eight other medical humanities/narrative medicine events, leading at least one event, and submit to their faculty mentor a one-paragraph description of something they take away from each event. Qualifying events include story slams, humanities lectures or webinars (the Center for Humanism Speaker Series, e.g.), films, visual art exhibits, relevant live theater or musical performances, and humanities conferences.

--Submit a final paper listing the activities they have participated in and led, briefly summarizing what they have learned from the scholarly concentration, and speculating on how they will use what they have learned in their careers.

Activity	Hours	Mandatory
Curricular		
Complete two selective courses in medical humanities in M1/M2 years	24	Yes
Complete "The Healer's Art" M3 elective	15	Yes
Complete the "Literature and Medicine" M4 elective	30	Yes
Complete a capstone project in Medical Humanities/Narrative Medicine	30	Yes
Extracurricular		
Participate in eight Narrative Medicine Workshops, leading one	10	Yes
Contribute to <i>The Asclepian</i>	12	Yes
Attend eight other medical humanities events, submit summaries	12	Yes
Submit a final paper listing activities and summarizing learning	2	Yes
Total	135	