THE HEALER’S ART

The Healer’s Art is an experiential course in large and small groups that is designed to support and nurture our medical students’ (and faculty members’) deepest values and wholeness throughout medical school and for the rest of their careers. The course, featured in the New York Times in 2013, supports and reinforces what called them to medicine: the wish to genuinely connect with and care for patients.

It consists of five 3-hour sessions in which medical students, together with faculty (many of whom have been formally recognized for their humanism), learn in a large group and then break into small groups to gain a deep appreciation of the journey they are on, how mysterious, at-times difficult, and awe-inspiring this practice of medicine can be, and how they can authentically honor their truest selves during this journey through recognizing what gives meaning to medicine. Faculty and students learn and share together.

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Enact methods to preserve and strengthen his/her humanity
- Demonstrate how to listen generously and compassionately
- Describe the effects of being listened to generously and compassionately
- Describe effective and ineffective responses to grief and loss
- Identify when they first became aware of wanting to serve others
- Articulate and strengthen a personal commitment to medicine as their life’s work
- Share their experiences of loss, grief, mystery, and awe
- Create supportive relationships with other students and faculty

Course Chairs: Iljie Fitzgerald, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Supporting Faculty: Rachel Brook, M.D., Estebes Hernandez, M.D., Mina Kang, M.D., Deborah Lehman, M.D., Sarah Mourra, M.D., Jessica O’Connell, M.D., Kate Perkins, M.D., Ph.D., others TBD

Teaching Methods: Discussion

Enrollment: Maximum of 40 students.

Sponsoring College: Primary Care College

Schedule: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Five Tuesday evenings in Session B: January 16, January 30, February 13, March 6, March 20

Location: Geffen