



The Fundamental Role  
of the Arts and Humanities  
in Medical Education



## October 2022 FRAHME Newsletter

This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date on news from the [AAMC's Fundamental Role of Arts and Humanities in Medical Education \(FRAHME\) initiative](#). If you know others who are interested in learning more about integrating the arts and humanities into medical education, please forward this email to them. To subscribe, they can [sign up here](#).

## President Biden Issues Proclamation on National Arts and Humanities Month

On Sept. 30, President Biden [issued a proclamation](#) designating October 2022 as National Arts and Humanities Month. As part of the proclamation, the president announced a new executive order that seeks to integrate the arts, humanities, and museum and library services into policies, programs, and partnerships throughout the federal government to tackle the greatest challenges of our time.

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## Join Us October 28th! Celebrating the Role of Arts and Humanities in Medical Education

Join us on **Oct. 28 from 1-2:30 p.m. ET** for a free virtual celebratory event in honor of National Arts and Humanities Month. Participants will take part in an interactive arts and humanities exercise, learn from other educators about their curricula, and engage in discussions about ways to enhance evaluation efforts for continuous improvements.

[Register now](#)

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## Other Arts and Humanities Events to Add to Your Calendar

### AAMC Awards Recognition Event to Feature Musicians Who Believe Music Heals, Oct. 26, 4:00 PM ET

Each year the AAMC recognizes and celebrates our academic medicine colleagues who are making significant advances in medical education, cutting-edge patient care, groundbreaking research, and outstanding community engagement. This year's celebration will feature musical performances by Patrick Bogui, a soulful violinist and aspiring medical doctor, and Musicians On Call, the nation's leading provider of live music in hospitals. [Register now](#)

**Friends of FRAHME Event at Learn Serve Lead 2022: [The AAMC Annual Meeting](#)  
Nov. 14, 4:30-5:45 PM CT.**

At this Learn Serve Lead knowledge sharing session, we will bring together medical educators to build collaborative relationships, share experiences and findings. Full Learn Serve Lead registration is required to join, but there is no separate fee or registration required to attend this session taking place in Omni Legends AB. Attendees will hear from several AAMC FRAHME grantees about their work to integrate and evaluate the arts and humanities within their curricula.

**Medicine During the Holocaust and Its Contemporary Relevance: Perspectives from Health Professions Students**

**Jan. 26, 2023 12:00-1:30 ET**

Please save the date for a virtual seminar, "Medicine During the Holocaust and Its Contemporary Relevance: Perspectives from Health Professions Students." This webinar will be held on January 26, 2023 from 12-1:30 p.m. ET. Featuring presentations by Hedy S. Wald, PhD, Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Sabine Hildebrandt, MD, Harvard Medical School, the discussion will be followed by an international health professions student panel. Both Drs. Wald and Hildebrandt are Commissioners of the [Lancet Commission on Medicine and the Holocaust](#), of which Dr. Hildebrandt serves as co-chair, and the students serve on the commission's Student Advisory Council. David J. Skorton, MD, president and CEO of the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) will provide opening remarks.

**Please join us and consider offering a post-seminar discussion or other activity at your institution to extend the learning.** Registration information and supplemental resources will be available soon.

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**View Recording of AAMC Color of Care Panel Discussion**

On Sept. 7, the AAMC hosted a free virtual event to explore how the academic medicine community is addressing and eradicating systemic racism in health care. The discussion included individuals featured in the documentary [The Color of Care](#), which chronicles how people of color suffer from systemically substandard health care in the United States.

[View recording](#)

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**New Video Abstract on Arts and Humanities in Medical Education**

*AM Rounds*, the official blog of *Academic Medicine*, has recently published the following:

[Video Abstract: Improvisational and Standup Comedy, Graphic Medicine, and Theatre of the Oppressed to Teach Advancing Health Equity](#)



In this video, Marshall Chin, MD, MPH, describes how he and his colleagues used improv and stand up comedy, graphic medicine, and Theatre of the Oppressed to train first-year medical students at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine in advancing health equity. This video abstract summarizes the work described by Dr. Chin and his colleagues in their [recently published Academic Medicine article](#) by the same title.

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## Poetry by AAMC Constituents

### [A Story Erased](#)

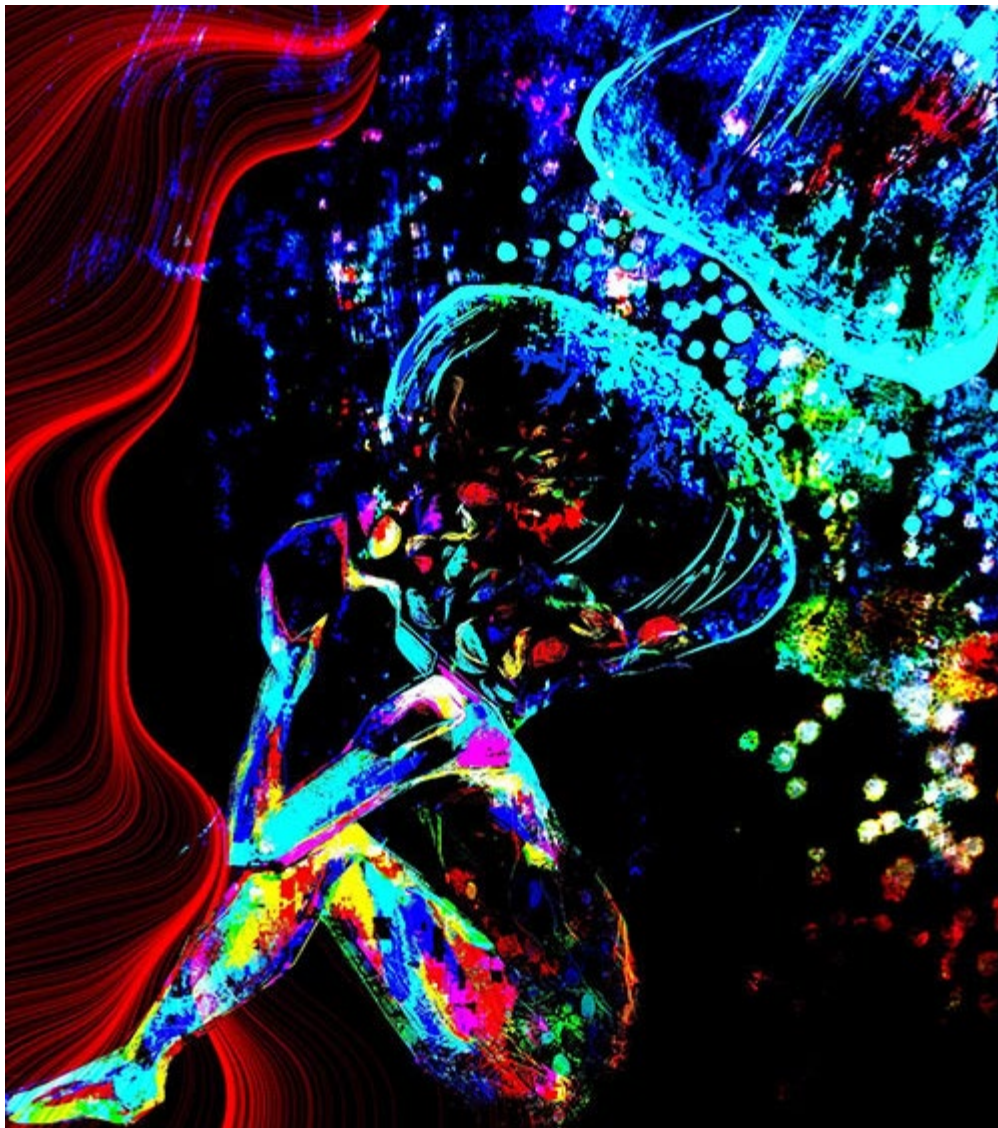
Their dream was medicine, but it was not easy. They failed and tried again multiple times. The feeling that came with their success was immeasurable. All the sleepless nights, the stress, sacrifices, and hard work paid off. Then they hear “it’s easier for you because of your ethnicity.” Just like that, their story was erased.

-Sanga Shir (Medical Student)

This 55-word story is part of a collection of [hundreds of contributions](#) to our story sharing project, which offered a way for physicians, residents, and medical students to reflect on the uncertainty surrounding the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice.

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## Featured Artwork



*Connection* by Sanjana Sundara Raj Sreenath, a third year medical student at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center – El Paso.

Artist's Statement:

Isolating the signal from the noise can often be an arduous task in medicine. This digital composite captures the patient's perspective on finding connection and meaning after trauma and illness. A synaptic cleft is featured to highlight the importance of connection in healing.

With rapid advances and a perceived loss of personal touch in modern medicine, it is common for patients to feel a sense of disconnect from the signal. This artwork attempts to capture the demoralization patients often feel with a loss of connection to the world as they knew it when they were healthy.

Providers offer an important avenue for patients to recontextualize their suffering and rediscover lost connections after trauma and illness. Perlin noise, a type of gradient noise developed by Ken Perlin, was introduced into the artwork using p5.js, a graphical JavaScript library to highlight our relentless pursuit to improve the signal to noise ratio in a sea of endless clinical information/data. Two synaptic terminals highlight the important role

of connections in helping us make sense of the world around us.

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