



The Fundamental Role of the Arts and Humanities in Medical Education



February 2023 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](#).



REBECCA CRUMPLER

*the first African American woman to
get an M.D. -- in 1864*



[Follow @AAMCToday on Twitter](#) throughout Black History Month as we recognize physicians, scientists, and other health professionals for their contributions to the advancement of medicine and science.

Arts and Humanities Activities for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Education

The FRAHME Getting Started Guide is designed for educators who are new to incorporating arts and humanities into their programs, courses, or curricula. The guide provides specific ideas and examples for integrating the arts and humanities into competency-based medical education. Activities were selected due to their ability to be conducted at low cost with any group of learners, regardless of developmental stage or specialty.

[Activities for teaching about diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism](#) can be found in the section on Systems-Based Practice. Resources include:

- [Episode 4 of the 1619 Project Podcast](#), which details how Black people have been systematically denied access to health care over time.
 - [The Health Humanities Approach](#), which pairs patient narratives with humanities scholarship from history or literature. Portraits are offered on the racial politics of gun violence, gender and religious identity in Mexican-American women, and the medicalization of trans lives, among others.
 - [An AAMC webinar in response to the film "The Color of Care."](#) which chronicles how people of color suffer from systemically substandard health care in the United States.
 - [The Multiculturalism Reading Guide from Bellevue Literary Review](#) offers stories, essays, and poems, along with discussion questions, to help learners dissect the complexities of multiculturalism as it exists both within a medical context and within society.
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Surrounded by Black Excellence

In this featured interview from the [AAMC's StoryCorps collection](#), Kimberly Manning, MD, tells her friend and colleague Shanta Zimmer, MD, about her path to medicine, her experience at Tuskegee and Meharry Universities where she was "surrounded by Black Excellence," and some of the lessons she has learned in her journey as a Black physician.

[Listen to the 3 minute version](#)

[Listen to the 40 minute version](#)

In 2020 and 2021, the AAMC partnered with StoryCorps Connect to offer guided interviews for health care professionals and trainees to reflect on the COVID pandemic and/or on the racial unrest impacting the nation at that time. [These interviews](#) are preserved at the Library of Congress.

Recording of "Medicine During the Holocaust and Its Contemporary Relevance: Perspectives from Health Professions Students"

[A recording of a recent webinar](#) hosted by the AAMC, "Legacy of Medicine During the Holocaust and its Contemporary Relevance," is now available in our Getting Started Guide, along with supplemental reading and activity suggestions.

The webinar was presented as part of the AAMC's FRAHME initiative and featured presentations by Hedy Wald, PhD, of Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Sabine Hildebrandt, MD, of Harvard Medical School, followed by a panel discussion with health professions learners from four countries:

- Shubham Gupta, MBBS, medical intern, Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Kolhapur, India

- Jennifer Igwe, medical student, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany
- Emma Nalinya, MBChB/MBBS, medical school graduate, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya
- Dali Yakoub, PhD student, Oakland University School of Nursing, Michigan, USA

[View the Recording](#)

***Academic Medicine* to accept cover art submissions beginning April 3**



In April, the AAMC peer-reviewed journal *Academic Medicine* will accept submissions to its popular cover art feature. The journal's cover design prominently features original artwork, and artists will have an opportunity to submit their work for consideration by an expert panel of reviewers. The submission period will be open from April 3-28. [Read More](#)

Featured Artwork from AAMC Constituents



Life-Prolonging Care by Julia Tomtschik, medical student, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Artist's Statement:

"Life-saving" is a term often associated with medicine, but it fails to communicate what about life is being saved. Furthermore, a life that needs saving insinuates helplessness on behalf of the patient. "Life-prolonging" is perhaps more appropriate. The idea of "life-prolonging" care is simple, but with profound implications.

Many medical interventions are known to prolong life. As a medical student, I am tasked with learning about many of these interventions. Almost as often as I find myself in awe of the intricacies of human biology and medicine's healing power, I wonder if patients are able to make the most of the extra time medicine gives them. Medical treatments can vastly improve patients' lives, but they can also bring about financial hardship, disrupt routines, and diminish patients' abilities to do the activities they most enjoy. This dichotomy is reflected in the image of an hourglass being broken to give it more sand – more time.

I am continually humbled by how little I know about each of my patients. As I work to understand standards of care, I know that putting this knowledge into practice will require learning from my patients as well. Many of my questions about how care should be delivered cannot be answered without first considering patient values. I hope this digital painting inspires others to weigh the burdens and benefits of medical treatment, particularly within the context of life-prolonging care.