



The Fundamental Role
of the Arts and Humanities
in Medical Education



February 2025 FRAHME Newsletter

This bi-monthly 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](#).

Webinar Recording Available: Enhancing Well-being Through Visual Arts in Health Professions Education

On January 15, the AAMC hosted an insightful and interactive webinar as part of its FRAHME initiative on how to enhance well-being through the use of visual arts in health professions education. Speakers Kamna Balhara, MD, MA, Margaret Chisolm, MD, and Deepthiman Gowda, MD, MPH, MS, described the visual arts programs they designed using evidence-based strategies to enhance flourishing, build common ground, and increase well-being across learner levels.

You can [view a recording](#) of the webinar by signing in with your AAMC account (click "Register," then "Complete registration now"). If you have any technical questions, please email aamc@commpartners.com.

[View recording](#)

What Are the Neurohumanities and Who Is Using Them?

An Interview with
Mattia Rosso, MD
Tatiana Greige, MD
Charles Palmer, MD



Mattia Rosso, MD



Tatiana Greige, MD



Charles Palmer, MD

A new study, [The Neurohumanities in Training: Integrating a Humanities Curriculum Within Neurology Residency Programs](#), offers a descriptive analysis of six neurology

residency programs in the United States with neurohumanities curricula. The paper highlights the diverse approaches and objectives adopted by each program. FRAHME team member Brandy King recently spoke to authors Charles Palmer, MD, Mattia Rosso, MD, and Tatiana Greige, MD, about what this term means and what has come from their collaborative paper. [Read interview.](#)

To read the full interview, log into the AAMC virtual community “Arts and Humanities in Health Professions Education.” If you have not yet joined this free and engaging platform, we [invite you to join over 280 professionals](#) who use the group to share resources, ideas, and insights.

Recent Literature on Arts and Humanities Published in *Academic Medicine* and *MedEdPORTAL*

[Studying the Role of Medicine in Nazism and the Holocaust to Shape Professional Identity Formation](#)

Hedy S. Wald, PhD, Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH

In a letter to the editor, Drs. Wald and Ehrenfeld point to the Lancet Commission on Medicine, Nazism, and the Holocaust report as a framework to help health professions students navigate increasingly complex ethical dilemmas, including the rise of economic, social, and geopolitical issues.

[The Strength of a Story: Partnering With a Community Organization to Destigmatize Substance Use Disorder](#)

Noah Sorkow, Cameron Lauf, Stephen H. Berns, MD

The authors created a narrative-based small-group facilitated discussion between medical students and an individual in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). Over 100 second-year medical students engaged in a 90-minute facilitated discussion with this community member and one attending physician preceptor. Students agreed or strongly agreed that they appreciated the session format (92%), that they learned something new about SUD (83%), and that the session was applicable to their future career (92%). Community members expressed how the session helped humanize health care providers and had interest in participating in future sessions.

What Else We’re Reading (and Watching!)

[Humanity in Medicine.](#) *TEDxDuke*

Aaron Zhao, a junior at Duke at the time of recording, shows how he combines science with narrative documentary art.

[Music and Medicine in Concert.](#) *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*

A doctor reflects on the similarities between medical training and the formative lessons she learned as an 8-year-old piano student.

[Exploring the Significance of Medical Humanities in Shaping Internship Performance: Insights From Curriculum Categories.](#) *Medical Education Online*

Researchers analyzed the academic records of 1,364 medical students across 8 years of admission cohorts and found that medical humanities had a strong predictive association with clinical competence during formative internship training.

[Sewing the SEAMs: Surgical Education in the Art Museum.](#) *Journal of Surgical Education*

Researchers examined the feasibility and short-term outcomes of a novel, visual arts-based curriculum for surgery residents. Residents made improvements in using observational skills, viewing others as multidimensional people, and making connections with colleagues.

[An Interview With Rita Charon.](#) *Journal of Medical Humanities*

This is an edited transcript of an interview with Rita Charon, MD, PhD, about her educational journey as well as the founding and future of narrative medicine.

[The MANET Project: Museum Art in Neurology Education Training.](#) *Neurology Education*

Seventeen neurology residents received multiple custom-designed art observation training sessions at an art museum. Researchers found that the sessions improved the residents' observation skills, communication skills, empathy, and comfort with ambiguity.

[The Impact of a Narrative Medicine Program on Obstetrics and Gynecology Residents' Empathy Ability.](#) *BMC Medical Education*

Researchers divided obstetrics and gynecology residents into two groups, one of which received a narrative medicine intervention. They found that the narrative medicine group showed significant improvements in empathy scores.

[Impact of Diversity Representation in Art on Pre-Health Professions Students' Sense of Belonging: A Randomized Experimental Study.](#) *BMC Medical Education*

Two groups of pre-health professions students participated in a visual arts-based workshop where they discussed images of either gender- and race-diverse health professionals or nondiverse health professionals. Researchers found that integrating arts and humanities programming into pre-health professions education may help cultivate a sense of belonging among students who are underrepresented in medicine.

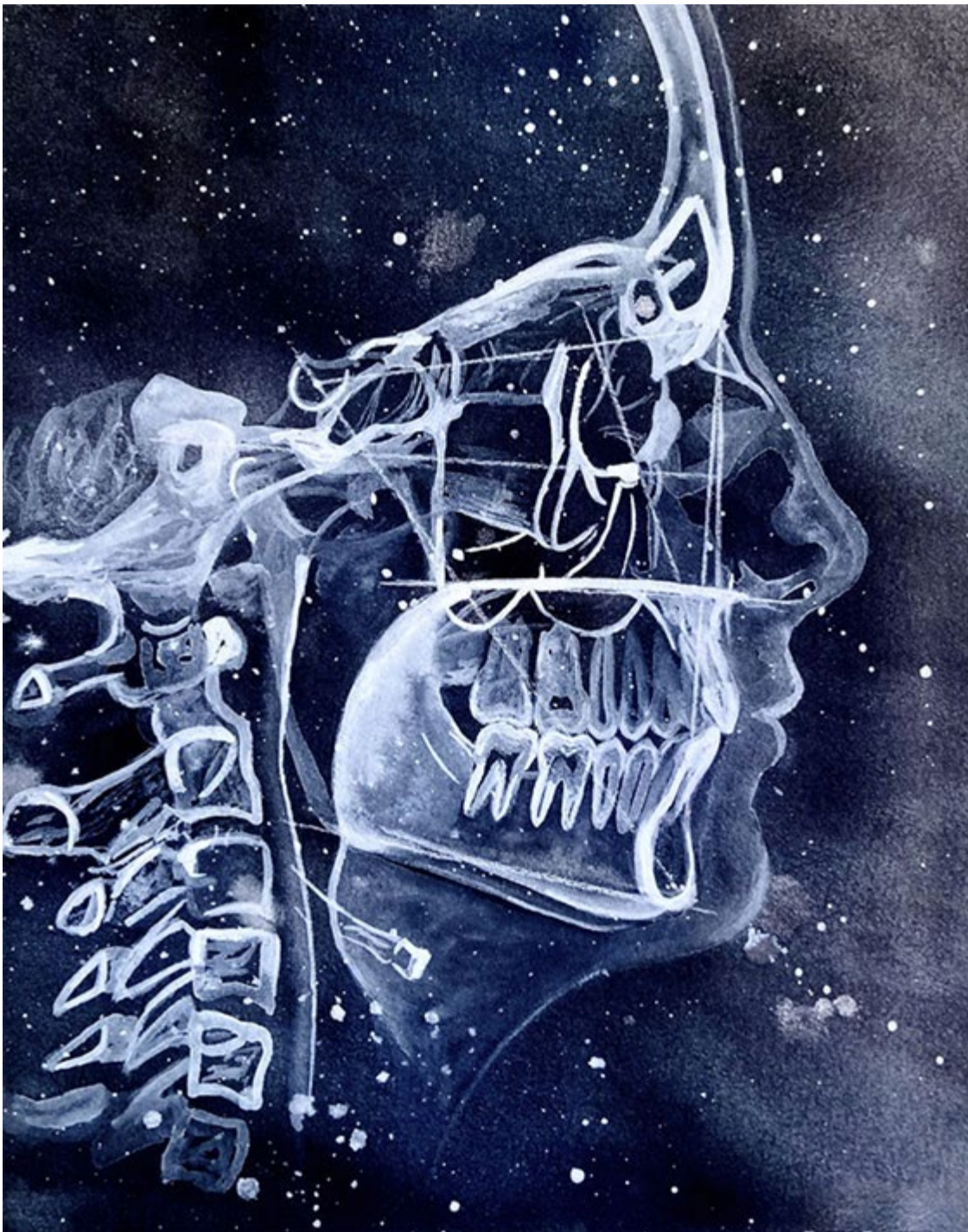
[Expanding the Scope of Narrative Medicine by Emphasizing Stories From Minoritized Communities: A Novel Facilitator Training Program.](#) *Journal of General Internal Medicine*

Forty-two participants from minoritized communities were trained to facilitate narrative medicine sessions. Researchers found that participants showed statistical improvements on several measures, including confidence and skill in facilitation, creating narrative medicine curricula, and recognizing diverse perspectives.

AAMC Accepting Nominations for Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award

The AAMC is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award, which honors a medical school faculty physician (MD or DO) who exemplifies the qualities of a caring and compassionate mentor in the teaching and advising of medical students. The goal of the award is to emphasize, reinforce, and enhance the importance of humanistic qualities among medical school students and faculty. Members of the academic medicine community are encouraged to nominate deserving medical school faculty at their institutions. **Nominations are due March 3.** [Submit a nomination.](#)

Featured Artwork from AAMC Constituents



Stargazer, by [Yuliya Petukhova DDS, MD](#), oral and maxillofacial surgery resident at Mayo Clinic Rochester Campus

Artist's Statement:

This artwork is a representation of a cephalometric analysis superimposed on the night sky to give the perception of a constellation. A lateral cephalometric radiograph is taken for purposes of orthodontic and orthognathic treatment planning. Common anatomic landmarks are identified on the film and various lines and angles are drawn out, depicting the relationship of the teeth and jaws relative to the facial skeleton. This analysis thus helps the orthodontist or oral surgeon determine the appropriate treatment plan for a patient and whether jaw surgery is indicated.

Most of my cephalometric tracings took place at the end of a long intern day, usually in a dark room in the evening. As I would identify key landmarks with points and have the computer “connect the dots,” I would always be reminded of the night sky and its constellations. I gathered my gouache and watercolor paints, and this piece was born.

My artwork is an epitome of my training in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Each piece I create is based on an experience or patient encounter. I’m unique in that I don’t have a single medium I work with. I pick the medium that is best suited to the concept I want to portray. My most utilized mediums include watercolor, acrylic, gouache, coffee, graphite pencil, and colored pencil.