



Martin Kohn, PhD, Director of Medical Humanities

Cleveland Clinic's Program in Medical Humanities

Every day, patients struggle to find meaning in the face of illness, looking to their physician for guidance. Doctors who are able to balance knowledge with wisdom, science with humanism, are more adept at helping patients find their way.

Through its work with Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, the Program in Medical Humanities is helping to ensure that future physicians find that balance, inspiring medical students at Lerner College to get in touch with their humanity.

What Are Medical Humanities?

By exploring medicine through the lenses of the historian, ethicist, literary scholar, writer and visual artist, medical students at Lerner College gain insights into the nature of the human condition.

"The humanities and arts help students understand that medical treatment resides within a larger human story," says Director Martin Kohn, PhD, who leads the program in collaboration with Associate Director Molly Wimbiscus, MD. "Our program helps them integrate the human dimension into healthcare, medical education and research."

How You Can Help

Medicine is both art and science. Philanthropic gifts to the Program in Medical Humanities will enable us to continue the development of educational initiatives that raise community awareness of health issues and enrich the culture of care at Cleveland Clinic, such as:

- **Public Service Radio Programs.** Cleveland Clinic collaborated with WCPN ideastream® to record *Wings*, a radio drama dealing with stroke. Written in 1976 by Pulitzer Prize-nominated playwright Arthur Kopit, *Wings* tells the story of a former wing walker who suffers a stroke and struggles courageously to regain her balance in life. "Collaborating with ideastream is an example of how innovative arts-based partnerships can impact the community's understanding of serious healthcare problems," says Dr. Kohn.
- **Stories of Health and Well-being.** This initiative bridges the Program in Medical Humanities to the community through arts-based projects, enabling Lerner College students to work side by side with the people they'll care for someday. The collaboration helps create a healthier community and encourages medical students to develop a stronger emotional attachment to Cleveland.

“ I reflected after anatomy lab that our medical training held the risk of our seeing patients as bodies, not people. When we came together and watched a dramatization of our experiences, it opened up a dialogue with the person inside the body, with the unspoken thoughts and feelings of my classmates, and with my own fears and vulnerabilities. The Program in Medical Humanities has exposed me to the diverse range of ideas and experiences of those around me. And through exposure has come awakening. ”

– **Daniel Huck**, class of 2015 student at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, about a performance of dramatic vignettes based on reflective writing by him and other first-year students

With your support, Cleveland Clinic's Program in Medical Humanities can continue to inspire medical students to open their hearts to empathy, respect and reflection and to nurture the compassionate healer within. To make a gift to the Program in Medical Humanities, please contact **Amy Kubacki, Director of Development, Education Institute**, at 216.636.5024 or kubacka@ccf.org. For information, contact **Martin Kohn, PhD**, at 216.636.5284 or kohnm@ccf.org.