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Lectures at Baylor College of Medicine focus on 'Compassion and the Art of Medicine'

The annual Compassion and the Art of Medicine series, hosted by the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, will begin this August. Directed by Jo Anna R. Fields-Gilmore, M.D., assistant professor of family and community medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, the series is free and open to the public. All presentations begin at 12:10 p.m. and are held in Baylor's Cullen Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

Compassion and the Art of Medicine encompasses the annual Matthew Carter Lecture, which features individuals in the healthcare field who dedicate their careers to helping the less fortunate of the world. Named for Matthew Carter, a former Baylor medical student who was killed in September 2000, the lecture is followed by a day of service at Houston nonprofit organizations.

Supported by grants from the Community Hospital Foundation and the Alan Lambert Family Medicine Endowment, the 2019 series includes the following lectures:

Aug.23

Eyes – Windows to the Soul

- Linda Chiou Epner, M.D., FAAO

Dr. Epner, assistant professor of ophthalmology, joined the Baylor College of Medicine faculty in 1994. She sees patients in a clinical setting at Northwest Health Center, part of the Harris Health System. She is also involved in teaching Baylor medical students and residents at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where she specializes in teaching house staff small-incision cataract surgery.

Teaching a holistic approach to comprehensive care for outpatients with eye disorders, Dr. Epner has a keen interest in fostering improved communication and bedside manner skills. She has served as a faculty small-group facilitator in Baylor's pre-clinical elective, "The Healer's Art," for the past five years, and believes medicine requires a physician to maintain self-wellness to avoid burnout.

Sept. 6

Matthew Carter Lecture

- Sophia Banu, M.D.

Dr. Banu, associate professor in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine, is board-certified in adult, child, and adolescent psychiatry. She has extensive experience assisting tortured survivors and refugees in Nepal, Greece, Bangladesh, and the United States. Dr. Banu worked at the Bellevue/New York University Program for Survivors of Torture, initially as a volunteer, followed by her fellowship and later as an attending physician.

In 2012, Dr. Banu founded the Clinic for International Trauma Survivors to treat refugees and survivors of torture. She trains residents and medical students to perform culturally appropriate psychiatric evaluations and ongoing care for refugees. For the past five years, she has conducted the annual mental

health training for case managers from all of the resettlement agencies in Houston. Dr. Banu also helped coordinate the first Refugee Mental Health Conference in Houston in 2018 and recently co-founded the Global Mental Health Division in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Sept. 13

What's in a Name?

- Michelle Barratt, M.D.

Dr. Barratt is professor of pediatrics at UT Health, where she cares for patients and trains residents at a long-term juvenile detention facility as well as other clinical sites. She finds meaning in her career by emphasizing communication with her patients and with their parents and enjoys rapport with learners of all levels. Barratt stresses finding balance in life; her hobbies include reading, cooking, and traveling, as well as spending time with her family, including her husband, five adult children, and one grandchild.

Sept. 20

Using Stories to Learn about Grief, Redemption and Forgiveness

- Daniel Epner, M.D., FACP

Dr. Epner is a palliative care physician at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He practiced medical oncology for several years before moving to the Department of Palliative Care in 2012. He began his career at Baylor College of Medicine as a principal investigator in a basic science lab, but he now focuses on psychosocial aspects of oncology.

With a primary academic interest in communication skills training for palliative care fellows and other providers, Dr. Epner uses narrative medicine techniques to teach communication skills. Such techniques include reflective writing, a close reading of medically themed stories, and discussing films relevant to clinical practice. He contributes reflective pieces about his own experiences as a doctor to the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *JAMA Oncology*, and other journals.

Oct. 4

Compassion in End-of-Life Care

- Phyllis Chappell, M.D.

Dr. Chappell practices supportive and palliative medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital and co-directs the combined McGovern Medical School and Baylor College of Medicine pre-clinical elective, "The Healer's Art." She is the author of presentations and exhibits at regional and national meetings including the Center to Advance Palliative Care National Seminar; the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Assemblies; the Texas Geriatrics Society; the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Neuroradiology; the Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Radiological Society of North America; and the Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly of the National Medical Association.

Oct. 18 and Oct. 25

Care of the Homeless, Part I

- Fabrizia Faustinella, M.D., PhD

Care of the Homeless, Part II

- Dana Clark, M.D.

Dr. Faustinella is associate professor of family and community medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and a Laureate of the American College of Physicians. Her work focuses on issues of access to healthcare by racial and ethnic minorities, healthcare disparities, patient advocacy, and medical narrative.

With her interest in film writing and producing, Dr. Faustinella has developed short movies and documentaries to address social problems, ethical issues, and inner biases and prejudices. Her productions have received several national and international awards. A recent film, a documentary titled “The Dark Side of the Moon,” dispels some of the myths about the homeless and uncovers the leading causes and possible solutions to the issue.

Dr. Clark, an assistant professor of family and community medicine, continues the discussion on providing healthcare to the homeless. She has provided healthcare through the Harris Health System and has been involved in Healthcare for the Homeless Houston and the H.O.M.E.S. Clinic, the student-driven clinic that provides healthcare to the homeless population in Houston.

Nov. 1

Water Shortage and the Health & Economic Impact in Rural Communities in Kenya

- Leonid Onyiego & Sherrie Onyiego, M.D., PhD, FAAFP, AAHIVS

In 2012 Dr. Sherrie Onyiego and her husband, Leonid, established a nonprofit, MAJI 4 Life (‘Maji’ is Swahili for water), focusing on providing clean water access to the people of Kenya. Since water and sanitation go hand-in-hand, waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and dysentery are rampant. With a population of 40 million people, about 17 million in Kenya lack access to clean drinking water. Rural communities suffer the most because of pervasive poverty and subsistence economies.

Nov. 8

Finding the Meaning of Medicine – Developing Compassion from Within

- Kenneth Sapiro, M.D.

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For more than ten years, Dr. Shapiro has taught “The Healers Art” to students at Baylor College of Medicine and the McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, to address humanity in medicine. Additionally, he is involved with the American Society of Anesthesiologists where he has been teaching a workshop seminar on mindfulness with his friends and colleagues, Joel and Michelle Levey.

Nov. 15

“Inclusion Revolution”

Cynthia Peacock, M.D.

Kleberg Auditorium

Dr. Peacock, associate professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, trained in the field of medicine-pediatrics, and serves as medical director of Texas Children’s Hospital-Baylor College of

Medicine Transition Medicine Clinic and section chief of transition medicine in the Department of Medicine at Baylor.

The Transition Medicine Clinic is one of a handful in the U.S. that offers a medical home for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Her experience at the clinic has helped her identify and define the numerous barriers that adolescents and young adults with significant chronic childhood conditions encounter. She has worked with the Arc of Texas, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, Disability Rights, and with Texas Department of State Health Services on several initiatives. Because of her advocacy work, she received the 2010 Houston Mayor's Disability Advocate of the Year Award.