

The Narrative in Tandem Project Presents

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STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND: WHAT
ARE THE HUMANITIES DOING IN
MEDICAL EDUCATION?



May 14, 2014
2:30-4:00pm

School of Medicine
Education Building
G650

In this I talk will examine the sense of dislocation that occurs when one ventures outside the comforting silo of the discipline in which one has been trained to take up residence in the “strange land” of medical education; and the fruitful destinations to which that sense of dislocation can lead. I consider different conceptual models framing the gifts of humanities and arts that we strangers bring to medicine and its practitioners. These include: 1) doctoring as narrative – patient as text and doctor as close reader, 2) doctoring as art – patient as painting and doctor as close observer, 3) doctoring as performance – patient and doctor as jazz musicians or improv actors. I invite the audience to consider how each of these metaphors can complement a primarily biomedical understanding of doctoring; how an interdisciplinary approach to medical education that populates the strange landscape in which students find themselves with both wise locals and visitors can enrich their understanding of this complex and inspiring profession.

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