



The Arnold P. Gold Foundation

Fostering Humanism in Medicine

Summer 2007

Gold Foundation Partners Award 38 Student Summer Fellowships

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Student Summer Fellowship Program (SSFP), provides funding for students to research and/or provide service relating to domestic or international community health issues. Thanks to the generosity of The Gralla Family Philanthropic Fund, The Jane B. Barsumian Trust, The Mellam Family Foundation, and The Kenneth Adler and Carol & Debra Ledeen Memorial Funds, The Gold Foundation provided 38 grants to medical students from 28 medical schools.

Since the SSF program was established in 1994, 290 students have interacted directly with patients of all ages and cultures, honing the skills that will help them become patient-centered physicians.

SAMPLE DOMESTIC FELLOWSHIPS

Indicators of Healing Among Victims of Abuse, Krupa M. Bhojani, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Working at the Nashville YWCA, Bhojani will conduct focus group sessions among female victims of domestic violence who attend support groups. The purpose of the interviews will be to develop a list of psychological and/or behavioral indicators that suggest a battered woman is beginning to make healthier life-style choices. The research data will help to improve the effectiveness of support-group interventions.

“C-CAPS St. Louis,” Emily C. Harding, St. Louis School of Medicine
This research/service project assesses
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How Are We Teaching Humanism? A Gold Foundation-Sponsored Symposium

A professional musician accompanies medical students on hospital rounds to help them learn how to listen with their stethoscopes and with their hearts.

A patient’s story, told in her own words, of living with and dying from cystic fibrosis is part of the curriculum to teach doctors-in-training to see beyond the disease to the person.

A doctor ignites a passion for humanism in his medical students with a homeless outreach program.

These are just a few of the innovative methods we are learning about as we determine how humanism is being taught in medical schools and residency training. In response to our “Call for Abstracts,” disseminated through The Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education and the Association of American Medical Colleges, we received more than 80 submissions, which were assessed by a professional review committee. Some 50 presenters have been chosen to attend our next Barriers Symposium, “How Are We

Teaching Humanism in Medicine and What is Working?” to be held in September in Chicago.

The Gold Foundation is convening this meeting to inform our work and that of the wider medical education community. The symposium will provide an opportunity for medical educators to focus on this issue, learn from each other, and to create networks for collaborative work and the replication of promising programs.

Our Barriers Symposia are designed to bring together deans, medical educators and researchers to discuss obstacles to growing and sustaining humanism in medicine and to propose programs to reinforce the humanistic values introduced to students through the White Coat and Student Clinician’s Ceremonies. Since 1996, the foundation has hosted six national symposia on specific subjects, including: the medical school selection process and obstacles to humanism in the residency experience.

I grew up as the daughter of a general physician whose most fundamental philosophy about medicine was that a doctor has a duty to help serve underserved populations. It is this principle that strikes me as I develop my research project. This past year, I have felt that attitude slipping away, crushed beneath anatomy, biochemistry, histology and the general stress of medical school. My vision for this summer is that I spend it reminding myself why I felt medicine was my calling, why the stress of medical school will ultimately be worth it, and learning how to balance my desire to be a compassionate, sensitive doctor with the rigors of science and the medical world.
– 2007 Summer Student Fellowship Applicant

Three Distinguished Leaders Join Gold Foundation Board of Trustees

Three outstanding individuals were elected to the Foundation's Board at the March 2007 meeting. Their collective expertise and experience will help us to advance the cause of humanistic patient care.

DIANA BARRETT



Diana Barrett is the President of The Fledgling Fund, a private, New York based foundation that supports inventive media, particularly documentary films, in order to change minds and behavior; as well as innovative, community-based healthcare projects.

Dr. Barrett received her MBA and Doctoral degrees from the Harvard Business School, and served on the faculty at Harvard University from 1980 until 2002. She was a member of Harvard's Social Enterprise Initiative, where she taught in the MBA program as well as in Executive Programs. Prior to that appointment, Dr. Barrett was on the faculty at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Throughout her career, she has been interested in the global burden of disease, and how public-private partnerships can address this issue. She has worked on developing a model whereby corporations could effectively work with NGOs to address the impact of AIDS on an individual as well as community level.

In her work with The Fledgling Fund, Dr. Barrett continues to explore how partnerships might improve the access to and the delivery of care for vulnerable populations in the Greater New York area. The fund also supported the 2004 Academy Award Best Documentary, *Born into Brothels* and Diana was recently the Executive Producer for *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*.

MARSHA LEVINE



Marsha Levine's early career as a teacher in the New York City Public Schools laid the foundation for her professional commitment to public school reform. Through policy studies, research and development activities, she builds links between public schools and the business community, teacher organizations, and higher education, each of which plays a unique role in the effort to improve the quality of education.

Over the last twenty years Dr. Levine has concentrated on professionalizing teacher preparation and induction. She has been instrumental in the design and implementation of professional development schools – the teacher education analog of the teaching hospital. Over 2,000 professional development schools, created through university/school partnerships, now offer extended and structured clinical experiences in the preparation of teachers.

She is Senior Consultant for Professional Development Schools for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. Dr. Levine is the author of numerous articles and books including: *Professional Practice Schools: Linking Teacher Education to School Reform* (1992), and the co-editor of *Making Professional Development Schools Work: Politics, Practice, and Policy* (1997), both published by Teachers College Press.

VICTORIA MANN SIMMS



Victoria Mann Simms lives in Los Angeles where she practiced psychology for over 25 years. She has clinical experience in a variety of settings including schools, parenting centers and clinics, as well as office-based psychotherapy. In 1990, Dr. Simms founded The Mann Center for

Education and Family Development, which specialized in psychological and educational assessment and treatment of children and adults.

Currently, Dr. Simms is President of The Simms/Mann Family Foundation and a director of the family office. Her community involvement has been extensive and her interests are in the areas of education, medicine and the environment. She actively pursues these interests by sitting on various boards, including: The United Jewish Welfare Fund, Children's Hospital/LA, the Board of Visitors for the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and the Aspen Center for New Medicine and the Aspen Music Festival and School. She also serves on the National Board of Hillel. Dr. Simms is dedicating her time to the creation of a Health and Wellness Center at the Venice Family Clinic, the largest free clinic in America and the first to focus on wellness.

Velay Essay Contest Encourages Student Reflection To Cure Sometimes, Relieve Often, Comfort Always

Writing about aspects of humane health care, and how it is – or is not – provided, offers medical students an opportunity to reflect on their experiences, and, thereby, increase self-awareness and awareness of the human condition. Self-reflection is particularly helpful when working under the challenging and often relentless pressures of medical economics.

Mitali Banerjee, in her prize winning essay, *Thinking Outside the Box*, reflects on the significance of “curing sometimes, relieving often and comforting always” as she witnesses Dr. M. and his interactions with a couple whose newborn was diagnosed with Down Syndrome.

Some doctors may emphasize what is abnormal about a patient’s condition rather than what remains unchanged about a patient’s humanity....Dr. M showed me how to see a patient, even a small one kept in a glass box, as a human being rather than a diagnosis, a lesson that has fortunately been reinforced by many wonderful attendings like him, who know the importance of humanism in medicine. These mentors have taught me, by their example of compassion, that doctors have a lot to offer their patients even if there is no cure for their conditions. By opening a dialogue by which we can understand, discuss, and negotiate the perplexing disorders of our well-being, the art of medicine can begin to heal what the science of medicine cannot....

Typically, The Gold Foundation awards three prizes in our annual *Frances A. Velay Humanism in Medicine Essay Contest*. This year, our panel of 20 distinguished judges had a hard time choosing among a plethora of excellent essays from the 240 submissions. Ms. Velay, our esteemed benefactor who passed away this year, would have been pleased with the results.

First Prize: \$1,000

Mitali Banerjee
Baylor College of Medicine
Third Year

Second Prize: \$500

Ari Reichstein
Case Western Reserve School of Medicine
Fourth Year

Benjamin Lampson
Duke University School of Medicine
Third Year

Benjamin Howard
University of California-Irvine School of Medicine
Second Year

Third Prize: \$250

Kelly Doran
University of Michigan Medical School
Fourth Year

Kate Nyquist
Loyola Stritch School of Medicine
Fourth Year

Note: The full text of the top three essays will be published this fall in Academic Medicine, the prestigious journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). In addition, these as well as the ten who received honorable mentions will be posted on The Gold Foundation’s website, www.humanism-in-medicine.org.

Fairy Tales Can Come True...

And it happened to us! Dr. Deane and Susan Penn graciously hosted a parlor meeting to introduce The Gold Foundation to a group of friends at our first Arizona event in Scottsdale. The evening culminated with a surprise “fairy tale” ending! Howard Berlin announced that he and his wife, Joy, were establishing The Joy and Howard Berlin Fund with a \$100,000 donation to perpetuate the tradition of the caring doctor by supporting programs that elevate and champion humanistic patient care. It was the first gift to the Arnold P. Gold Foundation LEGACY Campaign in 2007. We are deeply grateful to Joy and Howard, our longtime and enthusiastic donors. As we contemplate our 20th anniversary we are heartened by the response of the Berlins and others who want to insure that we have the resources to meet our goal – to provide compassionate patient care for you and your loved ones.





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Summer Fellowships

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cervical cancer awareness and HPV vaccine knowledge among a medically underserved, African-American community in northern St. Louis. Harding will prepare and provide culturally- and age-appropriate educational programs on cervical cancer, its relationship to HPV and sexual activity, on screening and vaccination for HPV.

“The Columbia Homeless Medical Project,”

Elizabeth Blair, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons

Elizabeth Blair is exploring health issues and conducting a needs assessment among Upper Manhattan’s homeless population in order to set up a student-run, free medical clinic at a drop in center. The clinic, called the Columbia-Harlem Homeless Medical Partnership, will provide accessible primary care and promote volunteerism among Columbia medical students.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

“Determining and Addressing Obstacles to the Effective Use of Insecticide-Treated Nets in Tanzania,” Maria Widmar, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine

Malaria is the largest source of disease and death in this region. Currently, only 8% of rural households use an insecticide treated net (ITN). Widmar traveled to rural Tanzania to investigate the issues that prevent families from using ITNs and institute a culturally-competent training program to increase the rate of use in the region.

“Bringing Health Promotion to the Modern Clinical Setting,”

C. Penfield, J. Ulloa, E. Morán, University of California-Irvine

Three students are spending the summer in Mexico to establish a Health Promoter Program, an innovative community health education and advocacy program, designed to improve healthcare for a medically underserved, Latino population.

“Reducing Exposure to Indoor Air Pollution in Santiago Atitlan,

Guatemala,” Justin Schram, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

To help patients with lung disease, Justin is designing a system to produce and distribute a fuel-efficient, ventilated stove for home use. He will also consult with a local microfinance bank to establish a payment mechanism so that the stove will be accessible for poorer households.

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*To preserve the “care” in healthcare,
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