



The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Fostering Humanism in Medicine

December 2008

The Medical Education “Video Slam” – Casting New Roles for Patients and Medical Students



Medical student, Tiffany Davis, films patients to better understand the impact of illness on them and their families.

The Video Slam is an innovative medical education program, in which medical students become filmmakers and patients become their teachers. Created by Gold Foundation Professor Dan Shapiro, participating students team up and make home visits to patients who live with chronic illness. But instead of bringing medical supplies, students carry video camcorders with an eye to capturing the patient experience on tape. Patients and their families provide the lessons – lessons in managing illness on a daily basis. Dan explains, “Student doctors are learning that helping patients anticipate and cope with the predictable challenges of illness is as important as diagnosing and dosing.”

PATIENT IN FOCUS

Prior to the home visits, Dan trains medical students in the basics of videotaping and conducting interviews. Over an eight-month period, student video teams visit a

patient coping with a chronic illness, such as leukemia, diabetes and schizophrenia. The team interviews the patient and family members and accompanies patients on doctor or hospital visits. On average, the team generates four hours of videotape, which they then edit to produce a seven-to ten-minute video chronicling the complexities, challenges and triumphs of living with serious illness. Shapiro notes, “The editing process itself forces the students to focus on the most important issues facing their patients.” The videos are then shared with fellow students.

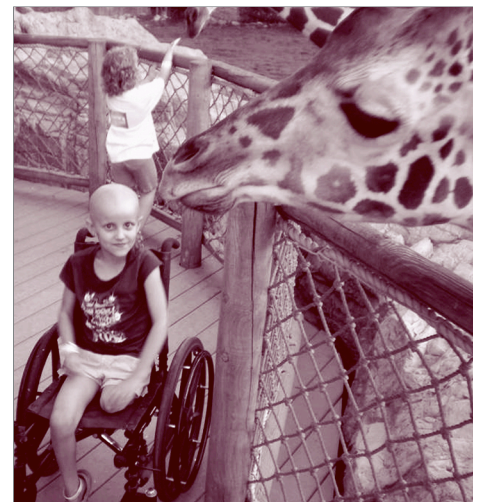
CANCER SURVIVOR

Dan’s personal experiences as a young adult struggling to survive cancer inspired his work to sensitize medical students about the challenges of chronic illness on patients and their caregivers. Over the course of his own initial treatment, remission and relapse,

From the hospital...



To the zoo.



Dan realized how little doctors understood about his life as a patient. He said, “If we are to train medical students to fully meet the needs of their chronically ill patients, we must enlist chronically ill patients as teachers.”

Judging from the videos that have been completed, the students are absorbing their lessons well - so well that some of the video-narratives have been adopted by faculty for use in teaching other students to appreciate the lived experience of illness.

Dan Shapiro, PhD, is a Gold Foundation Professor and Chair of the Humanities Department at Penn State College of Medicine. The Gold Foundation helps Dan create a “soup to nuts” training module so that the Video Slam program can be easily exported to other medical schools.



My dear friends, I'm worried!

Will you and your family have a compassionate doctor at your side when you need one? Will I and my family? The best patient outcomes depend on it. These economic times are putting humanistic healthcare at risk. I'm seeing it threatened every day. I don't remember a time when the work we do at the Gold Foundation has been more critical.

If you are worried about your healthcare too, please send your 2008 contribution now – and if you can, increase it. We urgently need your help.

With my wish for a happy holiday season,

Arnold

Dream Projects Born at The Gold Humanism Honor Society Biennial

Sharing dreams and bringing them to reality permeated the third Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) Biennial held in September. Delegates from 49 of the 72 GHHS chapters, along with representatives of 31 non-chapter institutions, cleared time in their busy schedules to spend two days in Chicago *Creating Cultures for Humanistic Medicine*.

The meeting began with opportunities to reflect on the participants' experiences and assess their roles within their institutions and the profession. They then worked in groups across titles and role to devise and plan "Dream Projects" that would impact on their institution's learning environment. At the end of the meeting, GHHS teams generated more than 35 projects, including involving first and second year students over a period of time with chronically ill

patients, nurturing residents as they face daily workplace challenges, linking GHHS residents and faculty members to form a teaching and service corps, insuring that no patient dies alone and many more. These insightful ideas address and anticipate needs that more fully humanize medical education and practice.

Co-chaired by Drs. Peggy Depuy, University of Nevada Medical School, and Joe O'Donnell, Dartmouth Medical College, the Biennial Committee invited a group of presenters who discussed current research findings, issues and trends in humanism in medicine and society. Keynoters included Dr. David Leach, President Emeritus, ACGME, Dr. Molly Cooke, Professor of Medicine at University of California, San Francisco and co-author of the Carnegie Report on the Professional Preparation of Physicians,



Dr. Reed Tuckson delivers his keynote on "Humanism in the Context of Real World Health Systems."

and Dr. Reed Tuckson, APGF Board member and Executive VP, United Healthcare.

Not surprisingly, participants commented on the abundance of "fellowship with like-minded individuals; infectious enthusiasm; and group production of new ideas." In sum, the buzz of active learning, brainstorming and commitment to action underscored the entire conference.

Profiles in Humanistic Medicine

The Gold Foundation's award programs grew out of our concern that medicine bestows many awards for scientific excellence but too rarely pays tribute to those doctors who also truly care for their patients. Recipients of the **Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards** for faculty and graduating medical students, and of the **Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards** for role model residents, demonstrate the Gold Foundation ideals of outstanding compassion in patient care and respect for patients, families and colleagues. In other words, the doctors each of us deserves.

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Faculty and Student Awardees

173 exemplary faculty and student humanists representing more than 25 specialties received The Gold Foundation's *Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award*. As a group:

- 62% are male; 38% are female
- 48% are currently in medicine or are pursuing a family, primary care, or internal medicine residency
- 17% are pediatricians or are pursuing a pediatric residency
- 8% are currently surgeons or are pursuing a surgical residency
- 27% are pursuing over 20 other specialties

Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Resident Awardees

254 residents representing 16 specialties won the *Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards*. As a group:

- 61% are male; 39% are female
- 36% are specializing in emergency, family or internal medicine.
- 25% are specializing in general or other types of surgery.
- 17% are specializing in obstetrics and gynecology.
- 8% are specializing in pediatrics.
- 5% are specializing in neurology or a subspecialty of neurology.
- 5% are specializing in psychiatry.
- 4% are specializing in other areas of medicine.

The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From The Tree...



Gold Award Winning Duo: Drs. Jerome (left) and Ben Lowenstein.

The Father: Jerome Lowenstein, MD

2008 New York University School of Medicine's Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine faculty winner. In 1979, Dr. Lowenstein designed a program entitled Humanistic Aspects of Medical Education. Now a required course, this program brings small groups of students or residents together to examine and reflect on some of the most difficult situations facing them on the wards. Dr. Lowenstein's dedication to this crucial aspect of medical education has earned him the respect of his patients, colleagues and students alike.

The Son: Ben Lowenstein, MD

2002 University of Vermont College of Medicine's *Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award* resident winner. During his residency in internal medicine, Dr. Ben Lowenstein was chosen by his medical students to receive this award for being a true role model and mentor in the practice of compassionate and respectful patient care. He now practices Cardiovascular Medicine in Newberry, New Hampshire. One can easily see the influence of his father's humanistic teachings!



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Humanism Through Humor: A Gold Foundation Grand Event

On October 21st, Amelia Gold Benson, and Foundation Trustees, Dr. Brian Benson and Barb Golub hosted an event for The Arnold P. Gold Foundation at the Grand Cru in Englewood. An enthusiastic group of young professionals gathered to learn more about The Gold Foundation's programs. The evening featured an appearance by Gold Professor Dan Shapiro, who performed a funny and compelling monologue about his experiences as both patient and healer.



Top Left: Leslie and Loren Morris



Top Right: Jeff and Jen Cordover and Tammy and Scott Mager.

Center Right: Debra and Seth Finkel



Bottom: Left to right: Gold Foundation trustees Dr. Brian Benson, Barb Golub, and Dr. Jennifer Ashton, guest speaker Dr. Dan Shapiro and Amelia Gold Benson.



Photos Courtesy of 201 Magazine

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