



3rd Annual Conference
Finding Our Voices:
Humanities in Medicine
Saturday, September 20, 2025

The HUB for Clinical Collaboration
on the CHOP Philadelphia Campus

Course Overview

This conference will bring together a community of those who are involved in healthcare to build connections through the humanities. Participants will learn to use narrative skills, reflective writing, observation, performing and visual arts, and music to give voice to their experiences in healthcare and enhance meaning in their work.

Course Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Use narrative skills to voice personal and professional experiences in healthcare
- Develop communication skills through participation in visual and performing arts
- Use radical listening and observation to develop empathy and self-awareness to provide humanistic care in multidisciplinary teams

General Information and Registration Fees

This in-person conference related to the humanities will be held Saturday, September 20, 2025, in the Hub for Collaboration. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. on September 20. The registration fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, program materials and parking.

Physicians: \$150

Non-Physicians: \$75

Trainees and Students: \$25

Accreditation



In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Designation of Credit

Physicians: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses: This program provides 6.25 ANCC hours.

Joint Accreditation



This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 6.25 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credit for learning and change.

Services for People With Disabilities

If special arrangements are required for an individual with a disability to attend this meeting, please contact the Continuing Medical Education Department at 215-590-5263.

Hotel Accommodations

Course attendees should make their own hotel reservations early by calling one of the hotels listed below. These hotels are within walking distance of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia:

Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel
36th and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-387-8000
philadelphiasheraton.com

The Inn at Penn
3600 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-222-0200
theinnatpenn.com

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia reserves the right to cancel or postpone any course due to any unforeseen circumstances. In the event of cancellation or postponement, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia is not responsible for any related costs, charges, or expenses to participants, including cancellation charges assessed by airlines/travel agencies. In order to process refunds for in-person course withdrawals, cancellation must be received in writing at CMEOFFICE@chop.edu by September 10, 2025. Refunds will be issued for registration minus \$25 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued thereafter.



PROGRAM

3rd Annual Finding Our Voices: Humanities in Medicine

Saturday, September 20, 2025

- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast/Registration**
- 8:30 a.m. **Welcome/Introductions and Program Overview**
Madhura Pradhan
- 8:45 a.m. **Keynote: Healing Verse: Poetry as Intervention**
Trapeta B. Mayson and Yolanda Wisher
- 9:45 a.m. **Break**
- 10:00 a.m. **Breakout Sessions I**

Writing Wellness

Experience the power of Healing Verse with former Philadelphia Poets Laureate Trapeta B. Mayson and Yolanda Wisher. This session will use prompts and interactive activities in a supportive writing space to help participants process, reflect on and reframe their experiences. Writing Wellness promotes poetry as a personal and collective healing art, an intervention that can be used to navigate the challenges of being a healthcare professional. No poetry experience is necessary; all are welcome. *Trapeta B. Mayson and Yolanda Wisher*

Honor Our Stories, Hear Our Song: Use of Songwriting for Connection and Creativity

World-renowned music therapist Dr. Kenneth Bruscia states, “Songs weave tales of our joys and sorrows, they reveal our innermost secrets ... They are our musical diaries, our life stories. They are the sounds of our personal development.” This session will explore how songwriting can foster resilience and serve as a creative vehicle to honor the legacy of our professional experiences as healthcare providers. Participants will be invited to reflect upon the “why” of what motivates them to do this work, meaningful clinical moments, and the transformative impact that their patients and families have on their lives. Participants will partner with Lydia to collaboratively write an original song that reflects the collective themes shared. No prior music or songwriting experience is necessary. *Lydia Westle*

Medical Charting as Narratives

Historically, medical records have been framed as objective documents, written in the passive voice by omniscient narrators focusing on biological problems. This primary text is rarely held up to scrutiny from the patient’s perspective, and can be a site of discrimination, bias and misinterpretation. This workshop will feature a variety of approaches to restoring the human and healing focus of the medical record. We will present cases, which the group will discuss from both patient and provider perspectives and explore

other frameworks for reimagining narratives. We will discuss efforts to end the use of the medical record as a tool for “criminalization,” where documentation of sensitive issues can put patients at risk for surveillance and arrest. We will invite participants to share ideas for making the medical record more therapeutic.

Douglas Reifler and Mara Gordon

Mindful Art Making

This session will explore how the process of making art can deepen awareness and assist with coping. Through guided warm-up exercises followed by a more immersive hands-on drawing experience using various art mediums, attendees will have the opportunity to tap into their inner creativity, expressing emotions and thoughts in a nonjudgmental space.

Jennifer Lemish

Serious Intent, Light-hearted Techniques: The Art of Medical Improvisation

Experience an introduction to the principles of medical improvisation and explore ways it can support compassion, connectivity, and meaning-making in our practice of medicine. Active participation in the exercises is expected; no prior experience necessary.

Victoria K. Johnson

11:15 a.m. Breakout Sessions II

Other People's Stories

Those of us who spend time or work in the healthcare environment are constantly immersed in human stories. Writing can be one way of reflecting on everything we encounter in our day, yet at the same time, we have obligations to patients and their families to protect their privacy. What stories are “ours” to tell? In this workshop, two physician poets will illustrate challenges faced by physician writers and discuss how they have managed these concerns in their work. The group will participate in a short writing exercise and use their writing to generate further discussion. No prior writing experience is required, although a willingness to share is strongly encouraged.

Wynne Morrison and Kelley White

Finding Our Paths: Medical Humanities Across Training Phases

Join us for an informative session to explore the avenues and wisdom for integrating medical humanities into different phases of medical training. Our panelists across career stages will each share how medical humanities have shaped their journeys in medical school, residency and academic medicine. Topics include medical education, clinician wellness, mentor-mentee relationships, and career planning in the medical humanities. We will also discuss and share helpful resources on funding, fellowship, societies, journals, and other opportunities to support you in charting your own path.

Moderators: Jingyi Zhang, Isabella Li, Amanda Finegold Swain

Medical Charting as Narratives

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12:45 p.m. Lunch

Pick up your boxed lunch in the Hub lobby and join any one of the sessions below. No sign-up required. You may also enjoy your lunch in any indoor/outdoor spaces.

1:00 p.m. Option 1: Poetry Open Forum

Join fellow poetry lovers for an informal lunchtime session to share and discuss poetry. Please bring a poem to share – either one you admire written by someone else or one of your own. This is not a workshop, and we will not be critiquing poems or discussing their merits – just sharing the work and any insights on the writing or publishing life! No prior writing experience required.

Kelley White and Wynne Morrison

Option 2: 55-Word Story

Come explore the power of writing a story or a poem in 55 words as a means of appreciating and processing personal or professional experiences. We will use poetry and/or art to generate a discussion, followed by writing on a prompt, and then sharing our work on a voluntary basis.

Madhura Pradhan and Frances Nadel

Option 3: Munch and Music

Live music will be provided during lunch by CHOP music therapists.

Lydia Westle and Ashley Warmbrodt

2:15 p.m.

Do You Want to Tell Me About ...?

A reading of scenes from Amy Herzog's play *Mary Jane*, about a mother with a critically ill child, followed by a town hall discussion centering on themes of storytelling and listening and how they inform care and healing. Featuring a quartet of professional actors and directed and facilitated by David Bradley, theater director and chaplain at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

David Bradley (Director); Melanye Finister, Teri Lamm, Susan McKey, Julianna Zinkel (Actors)

3:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn



Unless otherwise noted, faculty is from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and/or the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Course Directors

Wynne Morrison, MD, MBE

*Attending, Palliative Care and Critical Care
Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care*

Frances Nadel, MD, MSCE, MFA

*Attending, Emergency Medicine
Clinical Professor of Pediatrics*

Madhura Pradhan, MD

*Attending, Nephrology
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics*

Course Faculty

David Bradley, BA

*Chaplain
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit*

Victoria K. Johnson, DO

*Attending, Pediatric Palliative Care
Associate Professor of Pediatrics*

Jennifer Lemish, MA, ATR-BC, LPC

*Art Therapist
Pediatric Advanced Care Team*

Isabella Li

MD Candidate '28

Amanda Finegold Swain, MD

*Attending, Family Medicine
Assistant Professor of Clinical Family Medicine and Community Health*

Ashley Warmbrodt, MA, MT-BC

Advanced Creative Arts Therapist

Lydia Westle, MMT, MMT, MT-BC

*Creative Arts Therapy Clinical Supervisor
Intensive Care Units*

Jingyi Zhang

MD Candidate '28

Guest Faculty

Mara Gordon, MD

*Attending, Family Medicine
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (Camden, New Jersey)*

Trapeta B. Mayson, BA, MSS, LCSW, MBA, D.Hum.Litt. (h.c.)

Douglas Reifler, MD

*Professor of Medicine
Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Medical Humanities
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (Camden, New Jersey)*

Guest Faculty (continued)

Kelley White, MD

Poet in Residence

Department of Medical Humanities

Drexel University College of Medicine (Philadelphia)

Yolanda Wisher, BA, MA, Hon. Litt.D. (h.c.)

Senior Curator, Monument Lab

Actors

Melanye Finister

Teri Lamm

Susan McKey

Julianna Zinkel

Planning Committee

Carly Athan, MSW, LSW

David Bradley, BA

Colleen Crowley, BSN, RN

Stephen Ludwig, MD

Faculty Bios

David Bradley, BA is a staff chaplain with the Spiritual Care team at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where he focuses on the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. David brings to chaplaincy perspectives in making meaning and exploring connection that he learned during a long career as a theater director, teacher, and civically engaged artist. He is a company member at People's Light and Theatre and has been a frequent collaborator with Temple University's Institute on Disabilities, World Cafe Live, Theater of War, and the National Constitution Center, among others. David's work has been honored by the City of Philadelphia's Intellectual Disabilities Services, the Arts & Business Council of Philadelphia, and Art-Reach. He is a graduate of Yale University.

Mara Gordon, MD is an assistant professor of family medicine at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, where she serves as a primary care doctor for patients of all ages and teaches medical students. As a core faculty member in the Edward D. Viner Center for Humanism, she co-directs the Narrative Medicine program. Her writing has been published in the *New York Times*, NPR, *The Atlantic*, and other publications. She is at work on a book about body justice and fatphobia in medicine. You can read more of her writing in her Substack newsletter *Chief Complaint*, at maragordonmd.substack.com.

Faculty Bios (continued)

Victoria K. Johnson, DO is an attending physician specializing in palliative care on the Pediatric Advanced Care Team (PACT) at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She dedicates her time to educating clinicians throughout the enterprise on communication skills. Her passion for enhancing communication skills led her to pursue further education in medical improvisation, a discipline focused on experiential learning to foster empathy, enhance listening skills and promote teamwork. Viki's journey to medicine was influenced by her background in the arts and craftsmanship. From her early years assisting her father in the garage, preparing cars for painting, and repairing dents, to her experience as a dance teacher, she developed a deep appreciation for creativity, expression and attention to detail. She remains committed to integrating medicine and the humanities, recognizing their significant impact on well-being and fulfillment.

Jennifer Lemisch, MA, ATR-BC, LPC is a board-certified art therapist and licensed professional counselor who has been employed at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia since 2001. She has been part of the Pediatric Advanced Care Team, the palliative care service at the hospital, working with patients and siblings, primarily in the community providing home visits to families since 2004.

Trapeta B. Mayson, BA, MSS, LCSW, MBA, D.Hum.Litt. (h.c.), the 2020-2021 Philadelphia Poet Laureate, is a licensed clinical social worker, poet, and civic leader. She is the founder of Healing Verse Philly and the Healing Verse Poetry Line (1-855-PoemRX2), a weekly service offering healing, affirming poetry alongside mental health resources. Trapeta is also a Poet Laureate Fellow with the Academy of American Poets, a Cave Canem and Aspen Words fellow, and has received notable honors, including the Pew Fellowship in Literature and the Leeway Transformation Award. Trapeta merges her artistic, clinical and community work to create and co-create impactful projects like ConsenSIS and Healing Verse Germantown, both focused on amplifying marginalized voices and healing through the arts. Her poetry has been published in *The American Poetry Review*, *Epiphany Literary Journal*, *Aesthetica Magazine*, and *Margie: The American Journal of Poetry*, among others. She is a member of the Greene Street Artists Cooperative. In collaboration with the late jazz guitarist Monnette Sudler, Trapeta has contributed to innovative poetry and music projects. She holds degrees from Temple University, Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, and Villanova University School of Business. Currently, Trapeta works as an administrator for a community mental health agency. A dedicated teaching artist and skilled workshop facilitator, she has mentored hundreds of youths and adults in schools, correctional institutions, shelters and community spaces, using the arts as a tool for creative expression and healing. She has also led workshops at cultural institutions, conferences, and universities nationally. A native of Liberia, she was raised in the United States and resides in Philadelphia. For more information, visit www.trapetabmayson.com.

Wynne Morrison MD, MBE is a physician practicing pediatric critical care and palliative care at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She is a professor of anesthesiology and critical care at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Her published work focuses on ethics, end-of-life care and the medical humanities. Her poetry has appeared in multiple medical and literary journals, including *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, *The Cortland Review* and *Tar River Poetry*. She is pursuing a master's in fine arts in poetry at the Warren Wilson Program for Writers.

Frances Nadel, MD, MSCE, MFA has been practicing pediatric emergency medicine at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for more than 25 years. Her academic focus has been the use of simulation to improve clinical and communication skills, as well as mentoring. She has had several short stories published, including one nominated for Best American Short Story and another shortlisted in the Oxford Flash Fiction contest. She earned her MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Faculty Bios (continued)

Madhura Pradhan, MD is a nephrologist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where she pursues her interest in the humanities in her spare time. She facilitates a narrative medicine writing group at CHOP and co-edits CHOP's literary and arts magazine *Diastole*.

Douglas Reifler, MD is a primary care general internist who began developing programming in the 1990s in the Medical Humanities and Bioethics Program of Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. He has since contributed to medical humanities programming at Chicago Medical School of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine of Temple University, and at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU). He serves as Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Medical Humanities CMSRU and a Core Faculty member of the CMSRU Edward D. Viner Center for Humanism in Camden, New Jersey.

Amanda Finegold Swain, MD is a family medicine physician in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Pennsylvania. Her clinical practice is based in West Philadelphia where she sees patients of all ages. She is Faculty Director for the Medical Humanities Curriculum at Perelman School of Medicine. In this role, she develops and oversees medical humanities electives, supervises medical student research in the medical humanities, and advises the student-led Medical Humanities Committee. She also enjoys connecting with others in the University and the health system to advance the use of medical humanities education in professional identity formation. Her interest is narrative medicine, and she is pursuing her MFA in Creative Writing at Rosemont College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Ashley Warmbrodt, MA, MT-BC is a board-certified music therapist with a bachelor's degree in music therapy and a master's in psychology of music. She works as an advanced creative arts therapist on the oncology, cardiology and neurology units. Her passions include helping those with sensory processing disorders cope with the unique sensory environment of the hospital, using music to connect with families from different cultures, and teaching patients new coping skills even amidst difficult diagnoses. Ashley's experiences working with neurodivergent students in schools, in mental health at an eating disorder treatment center, and working with survivors of intimate partner violence in safe houses, informs and inspires her humanistic and eclectic approach as a music therapist. Ashley's clinical work with patients with eating disorders inspired research on the iso principle and felt emotions, which was published in *Psychology of Music*. Ashley feels grateful to be surrounded by a diverse and talented team of creative arts therapists at CHOP and honored that patients and families trust her in what can be a vulnerable time and place in their lives.

Lydia Westle, MMT, MMT, MT-BC is a board-certified music therapist and has a bachelor's and master's degrees in music therapy. She works as a creative arts therapy clinical supervisor for intensive care units, where she is particularly passionate about working with pediatric patients and families receiving palliative care and end-of-life care. Lydia has presented internationally on her clinical use of songwriting and music therapy legacy interventions to support family-centered care and is a published author within her field. She feels deeply honored to be able to use music to help families experience meaningful moments of beauty, connection and healing throughout their hospitalization journeys.

Faculty Bios (continued)

Kelley White, MD has practiced primary care pediatrics at Federally Qualified Health Centers in rural New Hampshire and urban Philadelphia for the past 40 years. She began her apprenticeship in poetry about 30 years ago at a workshop for high school students and adults in Germantown. Recipient of a 2008 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts grant, she has served as poetry editor for *Schuylkill Valley Journal of the Arts* and published eight chapbooks and eight full-length collections of poetry, most recently *A Field Guide to Northern Tattoos* (Main Street Rag Press) and *No. HOPE STREET* (Kelsay Books). Individual poems have appeared in *Exquisite Corpse*, *Rattle*, *Journal of Medical Humanities*, *JAMA* and in the anthologies of physician poetry *Primary Care* (University of Iowa Press) and *Body Language* (Boa Editions). Her poem *Pandora*, (which appeared in *Body Language*), was read by Garrison Keillor on *The Writer's Almanac*. She is Poet in Residence at Drexel University College of Medicine and teaches in the DUCOM Department of Medical Humanities.

Yolanda Wisher, BA, MA, Hon. Litt.D. (h.c.) is a poet, musician, educator and curator. The author of *Monk Eats an Afro* (Hanging Loose Press, 2014), she was named inaugural Poet Laureate of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania in 1999 and third Poet Laureate of Philadelphia for 2016 and 2017. A Pew and Cave Canem Fellow, Yolanda received the Leeway Foundation's Transformation Award in 2019 for her commitment to art for social change and was named a Philadelphia Cultural Treasures Artist Fellow in 2022.

Yolanda has been an artist in residence at Hedgebrook, Aspen Words, Headlands Center for the Arts, and Cherry Street Pier. Her writing has been published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The New York Times*, *GOOD magazine*, and most recently the anthologies *This Is the Honey: An Anthology of Contemporary Black Poets* and *A Black Philadelphia Reader: African American Writings*. Yolanda's poems have appeared in numerous literary journals and have been featured in the Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day series. She performs a blend of poetry and song with her band Yolanda Wisher & The Afroeaters; their debut album *Doublehanded Suite*, was released in 2022.

She taught high school English for a decade, co-founded the youth-led Germantown Poetry Festival, and served as Director of Art Education for Philadelphia Mural Arts. With Trapeta B. Mayson, she has co-created the Healing Verse Germantown and ConsenSIS projects, nurturing and amplifying the voices of Philadelphians through poetry. Her curatorial projects include *The Re-Emancipation of Social Dance* (2024), *Love Jaws: A Mixtape* (2019), *Stellar Masses* (2018), *Outbound Poetry Festival* (2017), *Yolanda Wisher's Rent Party* (2017-2022), and *City of Poetry* (2016). She currently works as Senior Curator at Monument Lab.



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