



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

I'm pleased to be sharing the second newsletter of the Katherine Swan Ginsburg (KSG) Program for Humanism in Medicine.

As this newsletter illustrates, the KSG Program is active and thriving. When I came to the "old" Beth Israel Hospital in 1994, Kath's name was associated with the Award given in her memory at the annual KSG Grand Rounds. I recall the Katherine Swan Ginsburg Award clearly as a very high honor for residents; I believe it was one of the only (if not the

only) awards for housestaff at the time. It served as a powerful marker of the department's values, something to which a senior resident might aspire.

Now, as we look toward celebrating our 25th anniversary this May (read on!), I'm thrilled to lead a rich program that permeates the housestaff experience: The KSG Program supports a quarterly housestaff conference series; an annual fellowship for 1–2 house officers who devote themselves to a scholarly project in humanism; a diverse and committed group of 36 Associate Faculty; annual Awards for

a house officer and faculty member; and a vibrant annual week-long celebration of humanism.

The KSG Program has grown because of the generosity of donors and the commitment of the Department of Medicine to maintain and cultivate Kath's legacy. I invite you to read about the many facets of the Program, and to celebrate and support its growth this spring, and in the future.

Warmly,
Amy N. Ship, MD
Director, KSG Program

KSG FELLOWS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Since 2009, the KSG Program has offered an annual fellowship to support a resident project related to humanism in medicine. Residents are chosen based on their project idea and demonstrated commitment to humanism. Under the mentorship of KSG and other BIDMC faculty, our fellows have undertaken a range of interesting and important projects.



2016: JAMES PARRIS, MD

Jim, our current fellow, plans to develop a curriculum focusing on housestaff communication with families during the death process, including respectfully pronouncing a patient's death and logistical post-death talks with families and loved ones. He also hopes to be part of a larger effort at BIDMC focusing on quality improvement in the end-of-life process.

death in an inpatient setting. Her project allowed her to reconnect with her former journalism career, and today, she continues to write and explore topics in humanism like ethical challenges, end-of-life issues, and palliative care.



2010: MICHELLE DOSSETT, MD

Michelle is a physician-scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital's Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine. She treats stress-related diseases and researches patient-clinician relationships and mind-body medicine. For her KSG project she analyzed the effects of a medical student course on humanism, communication, and self-care, and she developed a curriculum to reduce burnout in medicine interns.



2015: LEAH TAFFEL, MD

Leah is currently in her third year of residency at BIDMC and applying for Geriatrics Fellowship. For her KSG project, she is exploring the experience of Limited English Proficiency Patients at Health Care Associates (BIDMC's primary care clinic), with a focus on improving rates of colorectal, breast, and cervical cancer screening.



2012-2013: HAIDER WARRAICH, MD

Haider is a cardiology fellow at Duke University and a prolific writer. He has written for many periodicals, and his book, *Modern Death: How Medicine Changed the End of Life*, will be published in early 2017. His KSG project, which culminated in a publication in *Palliative Medicine*, studied heart failure and lung cancer prognosis in relation to doctors' confidence discussing end-of-life care.



2009: ANTHONY BREU, MD

Tony is a hospitalist at the VA Boston Healthcare System, where he is also Director of Resident Education. He is an Instructor at HMS and faculty at the HMS Center for Bioethics. His areas of particular interest include advance directives, CPR and mechanical ventilation, and common dilemmas facing inpatient providers. As a KSG fellow, Tony examined how current code status discussions extend patient autonomy.



2014: NATASHA HUNTER, MD

Tasha is currently an oncology fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital. As a KSG fellow, she examined physicians' approaches to discussing and managing



2011: GRACE FARRIS, MD

Grace is a hospitalist at BIDMC, where she combines medical humanities with wards-based teaching. She is Associate Faculty for the KSG Program, a member of several ethics committees, and an active instructor at Harvard Medical School (HMS). As a KSG fellow, she piloted a workshop using war literature to frame discussions around caring for veterans.

HUMANISM IN MEDICINE WEEK: RECAP & UPDATE

Every spring the KSG Program hosts a week-long Celebration of Humanism. Each celebration includes “Music and Musings”—readings and musical performances by housestaff and faculty—as well as a Visiting Professor, who speaks at Grand Rounds, General Medicine Grand Rounds, and Journal Club. In 2015, we hosted Mark Linzer, MD, Director of the Division of General Medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center and expert in physician well-being, who spoke about preventing physician burnout and creating a sustainable healthcare culture. We were also very pleased to announce Sarah Lieber, MD, and Lachlan Forrow, MD, as our housestaff and faculty award winners, respectively.

This past spring, we welcomed Steven Rosenzweig, MD, Director of the Program in Professionalism, Bioethics, and Humanities at Drexel University College of Medicine. Dr. Rosenzweig’s

career is focused on the study of mindfulness and conscious emotional wellness in clinicians, which he addressed in his talk about achieving excellence through compassion. Our award winners in 2016 were Julius Yang, MD, PhD (faculty winner), and Lika Targan, MD (resident winner). We also captured our “Music and Musings” session on video, which can be viewed [online here](#).

Perhaps most importantly, though, we look forward to our celebration in 2017: We will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the advent of our program, which began in 1993 with the presentation of the first KSG Award and has since grown into the larger program we have today. As we celebrate humanism in medicine this coming spring, we remember not only Kath’s spirit but how far we’ve come in expanding our reach and strengthening our support of physicians who dedicate

their careers to compassionate care. Our 2017 Humanism in Medicine Week, scheduled for May 30th to June 2nd, will include special memorial installments of our usual programming.

Instead of inviting a visiting professor, we have chosen to invite past award winners to speak to their experience with the program and about the role humanism has played in their careers and at BIDMC. In addition, our Program Director Amy Ship, MD, and Katherine’s husband Geoffrey Ginsburg, MD, PhD, will share a few words about why Kath’s legacy remains vital 25 years later.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We invite everyone to join us in celebrating this momentous year for the program! Our events will be held at BIDMC in Boston from May 30th to June 2nd, 2017. Please stay tuned and check [our website](#) for updates and a full schedule of events.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: FIVE AREAS

Our five-circle logo was created to showcase the core values of the KSG Program: compassionate care, communication and collaboration, clinician well-being, reflective practice, and arts and humanities. This graphic also serves as a useful representation of our five central programmatic areas.

RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP

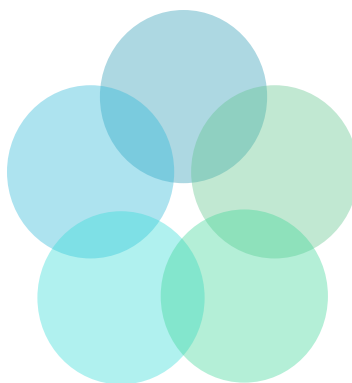
Each year, one internal medicine resident is selected as a KSG fellow to design and undertake a scholarly project related to humanism in medicine. Projects are presented on Resident Research Day and during KSG week each spring. Our fellows’ update in this newsletter describes past and current fellows’ work and where they are now.

HOUSESTAFF CONFERENCES

The program hosts speakers quarterly to address housestaff on topics related to humanism. Titles have included “Caring For—and About—People Who Inject Drugs”; “A Personal Experience with Life-Threatening Illness”; and “The Buried Curriculum: The Art and Science of Death Pronouncements”. Our multidisciplinary speakers, including psychiatrists, historians, and authors, come from BIDMC and beyond.

ASSOCIATE FACULTY

Our Associate Faculty are members of the BIDMC community whose interests and work reflect the values of the program. Many are physicians, but several are nurses or social workers. What they have in common is their emphasis on humanism in medicine, whether providing compassionate care or supporting trainees as they develop as physicians.



FACULTY & RESIDENT AWARDS

Every year, our housestaff votes to honor one faculty member and one resident with the KSG Award for Humanism in Medicine. These individuals are selected for the qualities they share with Kath: intelligence, courage, dignity, and compassion.

CELEBRATION OF HUMANISM WEEK

Each May, we dedicate a week to celebrating Kath’s legacy and humanism in medicine by hosting a “Celebration of Humanism.” The week’s activities include a conference at which residents share poetry, play music, and display artwork. A visiting professor presents at two Grand Rounds conferences, leads a Journal Club, and meets with housestaff and faculty. We also announce our award winners and our new fellow.

SUPPORT THE KSG PROGRAM

The Katherine Swan Ginsburg Program for Humanism in Medicine is funded largely by donors. We hope that you are as enthusiastic about our mission as we are, and that you will consider donating to the KSG Program so that we may continue to maintain Kath’s legacy and support and teach the qualities she held dear. To donate, please visit [our Support the Program page](#).

To learn more, visit [our website](#).