Overview: Proponents of medical humanities contend that the humanistic dimensions of medicine and health are a critical component of those disciplines; not only do these dimensions help us to understand the very nature of medicine and health, their apprehension allows caregivers to relate to their patients, to treat those patients with respect and dignity, and to provide more holistic and empathetic care. The 7th Annual Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference is committed to the creative, dynamic, interdisciplinary explorations of the range of themes within the broad theme of medical humanities. This highly interdisciplinary conference draws participants from a wide range of backgrounds, including those from academic, creative, and medical communities.

Call for Abstracts

Abstracts will be considered in the following categories:

- Oral Presentations: 20 minute presentations by one or two authors.
- Panel Discussions: 60-90 minute presentations by a panel of speakers (generally 3-5). Panel discussions are expected to be interdisciplinary and explore a topic from multiple perspectives.
- Workshops: 60-90 minute presentations with a focus on audience interaction and the creation of some artwork. Previous successful workshops have included mentored drawing, poetry writing, performance dance, etc.
- Posters/Visual Arts: Displays of visual arts, and performances (including dance, musical theatre, etc.) are welcome.

Submission Guidelines

- Submissions should include name, department/institutional affiliation, project title, and an abstract not to exceed 500 words. Proposals should be submitted electronically by May 1 in either .doc/.docx or .pdf format to medical-humanities@wmich.edu.
- Please indicate which theme the abstract falls under (e.g., philosophy/ethics, clinical practice, religion, conceptual or empirical research, performance/visual arts, history, etc.) Accepted presentations will be notified by June 1; conference registration will be required of all presenters.
- We are committed to making the conference as accessible as possible. In order to achieve this aim, please include a separate document with your name and any access-related information you wish us to know. It will be shared solely with the organizers responsible for its orchestration.

New this year, there will be special sessions dedicated to graduate and undergraduate student presentations, with prizes available for exceptional presentations. Additionally, information about the conference (including registration rates, hotel accommodations, etc.), the Conference Planning Committee, WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine Program in Medical Ethics, Humanities, & Law, and the WMU Medical Humanities Workgroup can be found at: http://www.wmich.edu/medicalhumanities.