

Using medical humanities to teach primary care medicine

AMEE Milano 2014

Francesco Carelli

Professor of Family Medicine, University of Milano

John Spicer

Head of Primary Care Education, Health Education South
London, UK



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO



Health Education South London

Strengths of medical humanities

- Learning humanism
- Developing observation and reflection skills
- Having fun
- Linking left and right brain 'functions'
- Merging the biotechnical and the biographical
- Narratives in literature

Available contentand sites

- Film
- Painting
- Poetry
- Prose
- Music
- Philosophy
- Theatre
- Sculpture
- Dance
- Cinemas
- Art galleries
- Books
- CDs
- Classrooms
- Performance arenas

using humanities

- *Using patient narratives in fiction and fact*
- *Unifying evidence and values based medicine*
- *Building on the biographical over the biotechnical view of medical care*
- *Taking a wider view of family medicine curriculae*
- *Using arts in the health and well being agenda*





Synergies in literature

- Being close to the patient in work and imagination
- The narrative of patients and characters
- The expert generalist 'view'

... no complaint affecting a living being can ever be entirely familiar, for each living being has his own individual peculiarities and whatever his disease it must necessarily be peculiar to himself, a new and complex malady unknown to medicine

observation- description –
interpretation – reflection



observation- description – interpretation –
reflection



To end....

I remember having read two or three years ago some story by a French author who describes a minister's daughter and gives, unsuspectingly, a clinically accurate picture of hysteria. I thought then that the sensitivity of the artist may equal the knowledge of the scientist. Both have the same object, nature, and perhaps in time it will be possible for them to link together in a great and marvellous force which is at present hard to imagine..,

Chekov 1887