Creative Writing in Medical School – OE 908

Brief description (200 words or less of course details):

The focus of the elective is to use creative writing, including essays, creative nonfiction, poetry and short fiction, to sharpen your powers of observation, description and analysis. We have found the writing process to be a valuable method of reflection, enhancing participants’ ability to understand – from their own perspective and that of others – the experience of becoming a doctor. Writing about encounters with patients, faculty, and other health care providers, and sharing the writing in a supportive group setting, facilitates mindfulness and deepens understanding of how these experiences influence one’s personal and professional development.

Semester offered: Fall

Registration information:

If you are interested in participating in this class, contact Dr. Hatem via e-mail: david.hatem@umassmemorial.org to register

Requirements for credit:

For successful completion of this elective, credit will be granted if the participant:
- Attends 4 of 6 sessions (Participants are strongly encouraged to attend all 6 sessions; 2 excused absences are allowed for purposes of receiving course credit); make-up sessions are scheduled in January to provide further flexibility to participants.
- Submits 4 writing assignments during the elective
- Completes 2 finished pieces of writing in the form of essays, creative non-fiction, poems, or short stories.
- Completes an evaluation of the elective

Contact information (student and faculty leaders):

Dr. David Hatem; Amy Calcagni; Emily Ferrara

Offered in this academic year: YES