Looking with Uncertainty: Inquiries into Visual Art, Practices for Good Medicine

Cultivating the Medical Mind: An Interactive Exploration of Uncertainty

Presenter:
Alexa Miller, M.A.

Medical Grand Rounds
Open Forums

February 12, 2019
Providence St. Vincent Medical Center

February 13, 2019
Providence Portland Medical Center

Donor contributions to Providence St. Vincent Medical Foundation make this lectureship possible.
The Allen M. Boyden, M.D., Memorial Lectureship
Presented by Providence St. Vincent Medical Foundation
in collaboration with Providence Center for Health Care Ethics

Allen M. Boyden, M.D., was a well-respected and renowned leader in local and national arenas who worked as a surgeon at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center for 48 years. One of his greatest attributes as a physician was his ability to find wholeness in the doctor-patient relationship.

The Allen M. Boyden, M.D., Memorial Lectureship promotes holistic approaches to and excellence in patient care. It provides a forum to explore aspects of medicine and the humanities that will enrich and challenge health care professionals in the pursuit of fineness, human values and ethics. The lectureship gives a context in which alternative, but parallel, fields of creative endeavor illuminate approaches that practitioners can apply.

This lectureship brings to Providence Health & Services experts whose ideas are inherent to the definition of integration. The lecturer need not be directly associated with the field of medicine but is committed to the basic tenets of the professional-patient relationship – trust, empathy, faith, sincerity, honesty, love and sorrow – that do not change regardless of how society or government views health care.

*The Allen M. Boyden, M.D., Memorial Lectureship is made possible by gifts from generous donors to the Providence St. Vincent Medical Foundation.*
Alexa Miller, MA

Alexa Miller creates experiential learning opportunities that enable leaders, practitioners, and teachers in healthcare to be more effective and mindful in uncertainty. A leading voice for observation and inquiry practices in medicine, and for their cultivation in arts experiences, Miller is an original co-creator of Harvard Medical School’s Training the Eye: Improving the Art of Physical Diagnosis, a course that produced researched outcomes on the impact of arts experiences on medical student learning. Driven by a strong personal interest in misdiagnosis and medical learning, she serves as a 2018-2019 fellow with the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine. Miller has been teaching medical learners and studying observation and critical thinking processes since 2003.

Miller’s consultancy, Arts Practica, offers arts-based workshops dedicated to nourishing the human intelligences of the healthcare workforce and the practices that support diagnostic safety, resilience, and effective team communication. Masterful at synthesizing medical wisdom from art, research, and personal stories, Miller is known as a dynamic teacher, speaker, and workplace trainer who brings a fresh perspective on difficult issues in medicine while engaging audiences in spirited participation.

Miller has taught undergraduate courses in Education at both Brandeis University and at Wellesley College, facilitated a weekly Lab Group in Yale School of Management’s Program in Interpersonal and Group Dynamics, and formerly served Curator of Education at the Davis Museum. She received her BA from Swarthmore College in Art History with extensive studies in Education and in African Studies, and her MA in Studio Painting from the Wimbledon School of Art where her artwork focused on human resilience and medical imagery. She is extensively trained in Visual Thinking Strategies protocols for facilitation and coaching and has completed courses at the Center for Women and Enterprise. She has received awards from the Creative Center for People with Cancer and the New England Museum Association.
Looking with Uncertainty: Inquiries into Visual Art, Practices for Good Medicine

Learning Objectives:
*Participants will:*
- Define uncertainty and articulate its key challenges in clinical settings;
- Identify evidence-based approaches for managing and communicate about uncertainty in the clinic;
- Consider the unique qualities of arts experiences and learning environments for addressing uncertainty;
- Identify resources and tools for managing uncertainty and optimizing engagement.

Description
In reckoning with a healthcare system bleeding US lives and dollars in staggering figures, many patient safety experts share a deep concern about an unexpected human quality: the way in which caregivers and leaders *respond to uncertainty*. This talk describes why navigating uncertainty is the most important challenge that healthcare providers face in their daily work, and how the path to learning this art may be expedited and demystified in an unlikely place: arts experiences. After almost two decades of arts-based teaching with medical learners, close observation of masterful clinical teachers, and rigorous study in the literatures on patient engagement, clinical reasoning, and arts and human development, Miller has noticed that masterful clinicians engage with uncertainty markedly differently than is the norm. This talk shares her Looking with UncertaintySM framework for shifting uncertainty from an enemy to an ally for collaboration, discovery, and co-creation of health. Sharing insights from research as well as stories from Miller’s path as a teacher and collaborator across the disciplines of art and medicine, this talk identifies the challenges, opportunities, paradoxes, and influences of uncertainty, and how it can be leveraged to make—rather than break—trust, learning and care between humans.
Cultivating the Medical Mind:  
An Interactive Exploration of Uncertainty

**Learning Objectives**

*Participants will:*

- Review concept of uncertainty and articulate its key challenges in clinical settings;
- Recall evidence-based approaches for managing and communicate about uncertainty in the clinic;
- Experience uncertainty among colleagues in art, and apply key practices for managing it;
- Articulate visual findings, separate fact from inference, and engage in co-construction of knowledge as a group;
- Reflect on practice as a professional learning community.

**Description**

This mini-workshop introduces established approaches for managing and communicating about uncertainty in the clinic, and engages participants in deploying those approaches in visual arts experiences. Based on the hypothesis that arts experiences offer a uniquely low-risk and opportune environment for addressing uncertainty, this session serves as the experiential learning component to the didactics shared in Miller’s Medical Grand Rounds. Join us to identify key challenges of uncertainty, engage with great works of art, and reflect on practice. Prior experience with art and/or attendance of Miller’s Medical Grand Rounds warmly welcome but not required.
CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT
EVALUATION SURVEY for In-Person Attendance

Providence Center for Health Care Ethics offers Continuing Education Credit of 1.2 nursing contact hours for this presentation. If you wish to receive CEC, completion of the online evaluation survey as well as signing in at the registration table are required. The deadline for completing this survey is Monday, February 26. Certificates will be delivered the week of March 5 to the email address you include on this survey.

TO COMPLETE SURVEY:
After February 26, the opportunity to receive continuing education credit ends


Open Forum (PSVMC/PPMC): Cultivating the Medical Mind: An Interactive Exploration of Uncertainty


*CME FOR MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS
To receive CME, sign in with and speak to:
• Ruth Parker, Medical Education, at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center
• Stephanie Munoz, Medical Education, at Providence Portland Medical Center

SOCIAL WORKERS
The Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers will accept the CME hours approved for physicians by the American Medical Association and the Oregon Medical Association. You will want to sign in with Ruth Parker at PSVMC or Stephanie Munoz at PPMC if you want a certificate for this presentation. Let them know at sign in if you wish to pick up a certificate after presentation.

Questions about this survey or CEC for nursing contact hours may be directed to Eileen Mooney at eileen.mooney@providence.org or 503.216.1913.
Disclosure
Alexa Miller is the owner of Arts Practica, LLC, a medical education consultancy dedicated to healthcare quality improvement through arts learning experiences.

Learning Objectives
1. Define uncertainty, articulate key clinical challenges.
2. Identify evidence-based approaches for managing and communicating about uncertainty.
3. Consider unique qualities of arts experiences as learning environments for addressing uncertainty.
What are the elements of masterful clinical response to uncertainty?

**Inquiry:**
The Wrestlers, Henri Gaudier-Breska, 1914
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

**Practices:**
1. Pause
2. See for Yourself
3. Careful language
13% of alerts resulted in clinicians reported new actions as a result of diagnostic pauses.
Visual Thinking Strategies
Abigail Housen, PhD, and Philip Yenawine
Co-Authors

- Method
  - For facilitating art discussion

- Curriculum
  - For access to art / cognition

- PD Model
  - To transform professional practice

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Backtalk

Katherine Schultz

The fullness of silence in the classroom

Teachers typically demand silence when they want students to pay attention or focus on their own work. There are, however, many more meanings and uses of silence in the classroom. Both teachers and students use it as a strategy for teaching and for learning.

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2. See For Yourself:

Enemies battling
A sexual encounter
Heteronormative
An ancient relic
Lovers at rest
Non-sexual play
Same-sex
Modern abstraction
Core Principles of Clinical Observation

1. Observation has a sensory perceptive and a cognitive component;
2. Observation is distinct from inference;
3. Observation is made concrete through description;
4. Observation occurs on different levels;
5. Observation is goal oriented;
6. Observation occurs over time;
7. Observation is subject to powerful cultural determinants;
8. Observation carries ethical obligations.


VTS: Reasoning in a Social Context

VTS: Reasoning in a Social Context

OBJECTIVE:
Make careful, objective observation a habit

Researched Outcomes

1. Increased frequency of observations (38%)
2. Increased frequency of evidence for interpretations
3. Dose effect
4. Corresponding categories of skills between art / medicine


“Art is a lie that makes us realize truth.”
-Pablo Picasso
3. Careful language

“If you want to care for something, call it a flower. If you want to kill it, call it a weed.”
Inquiry:
Portrait with Dr. Farill, Frida Kahlo

Practice:
4. See as Others See
Uncertainty: The subjective perception of ignorance

Prevalent

Different types

Different stages and places

Painful and anxiety-producing for all

FEAR
- Avoidance
- Failure to disclose
- Labeling
- Defensive practice
- Apathy

LEARNING
- Calm
- Curious
- Disclosure
- Co-creating meaning
- Commitment
Looking with Uncertainty™:

Evidence-based program that activates clinicians in transformative learning about uncertainty.

“Trust is a confident relationship with the unknown”
–Rachel Botsman, Economist

Looking with Uncertainty™

Practices = Acts of Trust

1. Pause
2. See for Yourself
3. Careful Language
4. See as Others see
5. Think aloud
6. Shift perspective
7. Co-create meaning
8. Recognize the limits of perception
Why does this all matter?

Why Art?
“The promise of an art work is that it can hold us – viewer and maker – in a conflicted or contestable space, without real-world injury or loss.”
–Kara Walker, Artist

Art: A Safe Dilemma

Authentic
Low Risk
Positive experience of uncertainty
Calls out our subjective lens

Kolb’s Experiential Learning Cycle

Concrete Experience
( doing / having an experience)

Active Experimentation
(planning / trying out what you have learned)

Reflective Observation
(reviewing / reflecting on the experience)

Abstract Conceptualisation
(concluding / learning from the experience)
Is It Art? Eyeglasses on Museum Floor Began as Teenagers’ Prank
The Visual System:
A Unique Opportunity

Thank you!

@ArtsPractica (twitter)
@LookingWithUncertainty (IG)
Alexa @ ArtsPractica . com
www . Artspractica . Com / lookingwithuncertainty

Manasie Akpaliapik
Respecting the Circle, 1989
2019 Lectureship Series

Goldman-Berland Lectureship in Palliative Medicine

Daniel Tsai, M.D., Ph.D.

Tuesday, April 30 – Providence St. Vincent
Wednesday, May 1 – Providence Portland

Professor at the Department & Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Bioethics, National Taiwan University College of Medicine, Attending Physician at the Department of Medical Research, National Taiwan University Hospital, and Director for the Center for Biomedical Ethics, National Taiwan University.

Dr. Tsai will share his work on the relationship between Confucian, Buddhist, and Taoist thinking on end-of-life decision-making and pain management.

Curtis R. Holzgang, M.D., MACP Visiting Scholar

Tom Koch, Ph.D.

Tuesday, Oct. 15 – Providence St. Vincent
Wednesday, Oct. 16 – Providence Portland

Ethicist, writer, and researcher specializing in the care of the fragile, Dr. Koch holds a multi-disciplinary PhD (medicine, ethics/philosophy, geography) from the University of British Columbia. In Toronto he serves as a medical ethicist and consultant specializing in issues of chronic care as well as the study of the environmental and social determinants of endemic and epidemic disease.

Adjunct Professor of Medical Geography, University of British Columbia.

To be added to our distribution list and receive more information on our events, please contact Eileen Mooney at eileen.mooney@providence.org or 503-216-1913.