
UAMS Medical Humanities and Bioethics Newsletter - February 2026

From Med Humanities <MedHumanities@uams.edu>

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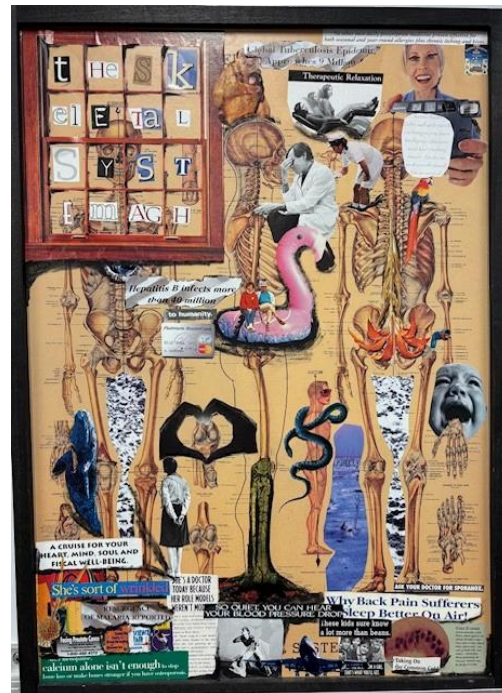
Art & Medicine



Twenty senior medical students participated in the Art & Medicine elective class this fall. Loosely structured to accommodate busy senior schedules, this course is more experiential than didactic. It aims to push students off campus, into the community, and away from their comfort zones. This fall, the class attended the annual Beethoven & Blue Jeans performance by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, discussed choreography, athletics and art during rehearsals at Ballet Arkansas, spoke to local artists at Second Friday Art Walk, participated in evidence-based critical thinking exercises while exploring the galleries at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, explored the importance of community art through a scavenger hunt in downtown Little Rock, and danced alongside patients with Parkinson's Disease through the Dance for Life Program at the Arkansas Academy of Dance.

Although I go to each event armed with discussion points, the students themselves ask better questions and draw deeper connections between these experiences and their experiences in medicine than I could ever anticipate.

This year we were extremely fortunate to integrate two talks on art and neurobiology by Dr. Tiffany Huitt, who currently serves as one of the core teaching faculty in their anatomy course and has a background in medical and anatomical illustration. Having the students draw a direct connection between the science of perception and their experiences of color, sound and movement, as well as think critically about the power of images in marketing and even education was a fantastic addition to the course, and one I hope Dr. Huitt will be willing to continue in the future.



Each student prepares a final project, either creative or scholarly, and presents it during the final class session. From exploring medical themes in horror films to exploring anatomical art with a 3D printer to writing a play based on all the times they'd heard doctors say, "I wish..." on the wards, the Art & Medicine students amazed me, once again, with their creativity and insight. It is not hyperbole to say that the day these students present their final projects is my favorite day of the academic year. I would welcome guests and highly recommend it as a wellness activity for faculty who could use a dose of optimism about the students we're sending out into the world.

Moral Distress Debriefs



As you probably know, the full-time faculty in the Department comprise the Clinical Ethics Consultation Service (CECS) for both UAMS and ACH. That service is available 24/7/365 for patients, families, and providers. But what you may not know is that aside from requests for bedside, “real-time” consultations, the service also offers moral distress debriefings for the team both during and after challenging cases have concluded. These meetings provide team members opportunities to discuss their experiences with the situation and focus on the ethical considerations that cause(d) distress.

Moral distress arises for providers when they experience their actions to be either constrained from doing what they judge to be ethically acceptable or compelled to do what they judge to be ethically unacceptable. Moral distress debriefs, then, focus on the moral reasons for and sources of distress, helping providers evaluate the ethics of the situation—both their own determinations about their actions as well as the systems that compel or constrain their actions.

Any team at either UAMS or ACH can contact the CECS to request a moral distress debrief, even if no ethics consult for the situation has been requested previously. Simply page [501-405-8134](tel:501-405-8134) or email ethicsconsult@uams.edu.

ASBH Call for Abstracts



Among the scholarly activities that the Department engages in regularly is participation in the annual conference of the American Society for Bioethics and

Humanities (ASBH). Typically held in October of each year, ASBH annual conference is the largest meeting of professionals in bioethics, clinical ethics, research ethics, and health humanities in the US (and maybe even the world). UAMS faculty members have had great success in getting on the program with presentations that span a wide range of interesting and important topics.

Now, even though the conference is still many months away, the call for abstracts (250 words or less) to be vetted by the ASBH program committee is out, and the deadline is March 9, 2026. So, if you have an idea for a possible paper, panel, workshop, performance, or other presentations, you have about a month before you need to submit. Feel free to contact any member of the department faculty if you would like help with developing an abstract for consideration.

[Learn More](#)

Faculty Profile: Dr. Angela Scott

This month's faculty profile focuses on Angela (Angie) Scott, MD, PhD. Dr. Scott is an associate professor of pediatrics (specializing in developmental peds) and medical humanities—now nearly 10 years in-service. She came on as faculty after 3 years in her developmental peds fellowship through UAMS, and she has been associated with the Department of Medical humanities & Bioethics since her time in fellowship. Her medical degree and doctorate of philosophy in medical humanities are from UTMB in Galveston, after having earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Texas-Austin. After completing her pediatrics residency at UNC-Chapel Hill, she spent a few years in general practice before moving with her family to Little Rock.



Currently, Dr. Scott directs the Practice of Medicine 1 course for the M1 students as well as teaching both Art & medicine and Literature & Medicine in the M4 year. Angie's efforts have been instrumental in keeping humanities robustly and squarely in the training of medical students (and others across the institution), and her championing of the humanities makes her the ideal director for the Honors in Medical Humanities track in the med school.

Enjoy her responses to these prompts to get to know her better:

- **Something you like about Little Rock/Central Arkansas:** I like living in a neighborhood where

faculty, students and residents all live fairly close to each other and can function as a community outside of work. Plus great local restaurants, art galleries, record stores.

- **Something from where you lived in the past you wish we had here:** HEB
- **A book or movie you would recommend to a friend:** Impossible question. There are so many. Sometimes a Great Notion by Ken Kesey, East of Eden by Steinbeck, Look Homeward Angel by Thomas Wolfe. The Untouchables. Stranger than Fiction. Almost Famous. Dead Poets Society.

Save the Date: April 23

Brian Carter, MD, director of the Mercy Children's Hospital Center for Bioethics will present the Harvey and Bernice Jones Lecture in Pediatric Ethics on April 23, 2026 at noon as part of the Department of Pediatric Grand Rounds at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Dr. Carter will be speaking on the intersection of pediatric palliative care and clinical ethics. Anyone can attend in person or tap into the feed online.

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