News and Views from the Institute for the Medical Humanities

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IMH Welcomes Lurie as Newest Visiting Scholar

For Sue Gena Lurie, PhD, the American health and medical professions were not created in a vacuum; instead they developed as a transnational experience, reciprocally joining American and European ideas, practices, and organizations. Lurie’s research is an attempt to recast the frame of the development of American medicine and professions in the 20th century. A significant, though unstudied, aspect of American medicine’s transnational roots was the American Medical Association of Vienna, which brought thousands of English-speaking doctors – from the U.S. and the developing world – to Vienna for post-graduate training. Lurie’s work, in partnership with her husband and medical sociologist, Gordon, attempts to develop a “transnational analysis” of medicine, professionalization, and public health that joins Central Europe, the United States, and the developing world throughout the 20th century.

The transnational nature of medicine and health has always interested Lurie as an anthropologist. She received both her MA and PhD in Anthropology, from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the University of Oklahoma, respectively. She first encountered Medical Anthropology in Chapel Hill, yet it was during her dissertation research that the study of health professions in a transnational political system became her primary focus. Her interest in women’s work, and her husband’s dissertation research brought her to Hong Kong, culminating in her dissertation on the professionalization of nursing and Hong Kong’s transnational health justice movement during its reform era (1967-1980).

For the last 24 years, Lurie has been a faculty member in Social and Behavioral Sciences in the School of Public Health, and Medical Humanities, at the University of North Texas Health Science Center – Fort Worth, and Anthropology at the University of North Texas. She taught social and behavioral theory, community health, social justice, human rights and ethics, medical and psychological anthropology, qualitative research methods, and co-directed the MPH/MS Applied Anthropology program.

Lurie’s research has focused on comparative health and medical systems and professionalization processes, ranging from the development of Hong Kong’s nursing and social work professions to the professionalization of Physician Assistants in the United States. She also co-authored Health-Seeking Behavior in Ethnic Populations with Tyson Gibbs, and has published journal articles and chapters on public health policy, research ethics, mental health care systems, urban homelessness, and health planning with non-governmental organizations.

Her current work focuses on the organizational development and

IMH Faculty News

Michele Carter was invited to serve as a member of the Scientific Review Committee for the National Institutes of Health grant applications on Research on Research Integrity (R21). The review will take place on March 29 in the Research Triangle Park area of North Carolina.

The amicus brief co-authored by Laura Hermer for the Health Law and Policy Professors in support of the Respondents on the Medicaid issue in Florida v. HHS was filed February 17.

Hermer also attended a workgroup of health law and policy scholars on Medicaid in St. Louis on February 17.

Alumni News

On January 26, the University of St. Thomas (UST) Board of Directors approved Poldi Tschirch’s appointment as Dean and Professor, UST School of Nursing, and holder of the Carol and Odis Peavy Chair in Nursing. She developed and initiated the new beginning for the UST School of Nursing that will open this summer, concomitantly, working with the UST Director of Development to fund 5 SON Chairs and multiple SON scholarships. Tschirch received her PhD from the IMH in 1992.
Grad Student News

Sheena Eagan Chamberlin’s paper, “Emasculated by Trauma: Exploring Another Mind-Body Narrative” was selected for the 2012 William M. Jones Award as the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper in American Culture Presented at the National Conference. The award will be presented at the PCA/ACA Conference in Boston on, April 13.

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of Vienna, while Sue was a Fulbright Fellow lecturing in Bioethics and Medical Anthropology at Semmelweis Medical University, Budapest, Hungary.

As an IMH Visiting Scholar, Lurie will utilize the Moody Library, and hopes to develop grant funding to pursue this research in Europe and the United States, and to develop related projects on: “the city and health,” “small states and health,” and “the Cold War and health.” She can be reached by email at sglurie@utmb.edu through June 30, 2012.

Graduate Student Accolades

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Texas Medical Branch and the Medical Humanities Graduate Program are proud to announce that Sheena Eagan Chamberlin has been admitted to candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The title of her dissertation proposal is Civilian Care at the Medico-Military Intersection: A Historico-Ethical Analysis of Medical Civilian Assistance Programs and The Problem of Dual Loyalties in the US Army.

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

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Faculty Members to Present at ACRT/SCTS Conference

Michele Carter, Jeff Farroni, Bernadette McKinney will be attending the joint Association for Clinical Research Training/Society for Clinical and Translational Science Conference entitled Translational Science 2012: Improving Health Through Research and Training, April 18-20, 2012 in Washington, DC. They will be presenting the following abstracts:


