Physicians have a long history of advocacy on behalf of the poor and vulnerable. Take for instance, Rudolph Virchow, the father of modern pathology. While Virchow spent much of his time analyzing diseases at a molecular level, he had the wisdom to recognize the powerful influence social, economic and political factors can have on morbidity and mortality. In an 1848 report investigating the epidemiology of a typhus outbreak in Upper Silesia, he identified poverty, famine, and political corruption as the root causes of the outbreak.

Our modern health care delivery systems face significant challenges to provide quality health care for all in our society. To meaningfully address health inequities and threats to health and human rights, medical education should play a powerful role in training future clinicians in the roles of health advocate and social change agent.

The Cambridge Health Alliance Internal Medicine Residency program has made a course on social medicine and research-based health advocacy a central pillar of its training experience. In 2012, we transformed a popular elective into a required social medicine and research based health advocacy course. We have recently described this course in a paper published in Academic Medicine and a news article in the Boston Globe's health and science outlet STAT News.

Our goals in the course are to 1) clarify and develop the values that brought residents to train in a residency program hosted in a safety net health system, 2) explore the role physicians can play in addressing systemic health equity, 3) improve knowledge of topics in health equity, social determinants of health and health policy, 4) develop skills in research methodology, leadership and health advocacy, and 5) provide mentorship and role modeling to support career development that may incorporate health advocacy.

In the course, residents learn about topics in US health care reform, human rights, health policy, and global poverty and disease. They participate in research and community organizing skill workshops. They meet with inspiring role model advocates such as Harvard Kennedy School Professor Marshall Ganz, former Administrator for the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Don Berwick, and Partners in Health Chief Medical Officer Joia Mukherjee. They meet with media professionals at Boston's affiliate for National Public Radio or the Boston Globe NPR/WBUR or the Boston Globe.

A highlight of the course is experiential learning through a research based health advocacy project. The project gives residents a real world experience of serving in the role of health advocate. The projects have produced significant scholarship in the last 5 years; presentations at Regional and National Society of Internal Medicine conferences have involved 39 resident co-authors. Last year's project on the impact of the Affordable Care Act on individuals with chronic disease was published in the academic journal Annals of Internal Medicine, with an accompanying op-ed in NPR/WBUR's CommonHealth Blog.

Jack Geiger, a legendary physician advocate, recently wrote in a piece in Academic Medicine, "Five decades as a medical educator have convinced me that most students enter medical school with high idealism. They care about inequity, domestic and global population health status, poverty and its health consequences....I believe that for a significant number of these students there is a steady erosion of this idealism by the time of residency training, to be replaced by cynicism, loss of empathy for patients, decreasing satisfaction in clinical work, exhaustion, and depression."

As medical educators, it is our responsibility to nurture and develop the values that brought students into medicine, and to find in them, the solution to our most vexing health systems problems.
Upcoming Academy Events

**Symposium on the Science of Learning:**
*Competence and Expertise: Are we expecting enough from our students and residents?*
**Thursday April 13, 2017/ 9:00-12:00 PM // Armenise Amphitheater Warren Alpert Building - RSVP**

[Click here](#) for more information regarding this event

*K. Anders Ericsson, PhD*
Conradi Eminent Scholar
Professor of Psychology
Florida State University

*Maria Mylopoulos, PhD*
Scientist & Associate Director - The Wilson Centre
Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics, University of Toronto
Scientist, Undergraduate Medical Education & Medical Psychiatric Alliance

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**Medical Education Grand Rounds:**
*How can physician training be transformed to meet 21st century healthcare needs?*
**Monday April 24, 2017// 4:00-5:30 PM// TMEC 227 - RSVP**

Eric Holmboe, MD FACP FRCP
Senior Vice President, Milestone Development and Evaluation
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

[Click here](#) for more information

For the complete calendar of Academy Faculty Development Programs [click here](#)

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**Who's who in the Harvard Medical School Academy**

*Dr. Cosimi* earned a B.A. in Economics from Cornell University in 1992 and M.D. from the Weill Cornell Medical College in 1996. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine and Primary Care at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Infectious Disease training at the Partners combined fellowship program.

Dr. Cosimi’s areas of interest include developing and evaluating ways to strengthen medical education and health systems in resource-limited settings. Dr. Cosimi lived in Vietnam from 2003-2007. She initially spent time training and mentoring HIV health care workers before being recruited by the U.S. CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP) in Vietnam to support development of their HIV clinical programs and operational research efforts. Subsequently, as the Chief of Care & Treatment at CDC GAP, Vietnam, she led the design, implementation and monitoring of CDC supported HIV care & treatment services for adults and pediatrics as well as prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) programs. It was during this time that she became increasingly interested in the links between medical education and gaps in the quality of the health system.

Dr. Cosimi now directs The Partnership for Health Advancement in Vietnam (HAIVN), a collaboration between faculty, residents and medical students throughout the Harvard Medical School community. HAIVN is partnering with Vietnam's Ministry of Health, Medical Universities and hospitals to reform undergraduate and post-graduate medical education, improve gaps in the health system, and strengthen research efforts in the country. Dr. Cosimi serves as a theme faculty member for infectious diseases in Pathways and attends on the infectious disease service at the Brigham and Women's...
**Dr. Clardy** is the Chair of the Department of Medical Education at Mount Auburn Hospital, where he also serves as an intensivist in the medical and surgical intensive care units and as the interim Director of Critical Care. Dr. Clardy previously served as the Director of Medical Critical Care at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), and as the Program Director for the Massachusetts General Hospital / Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center / Harvard Fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, followed by fellowship training in Pulmonary and Critical Care in the Harvard Combined program, and is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Clardy's clinical interests include medical education, sepsis, acute respiratory distress syndrome, and quality improvement in critical care. Dr. Clardy is the senior editor of the Expert Clinician section of the Annals of the American Thoracic Society. Throughout his career, Dr. Clardy has been recognized as an exceptional clinical teacher with a longstanding commitment to the education of both medical students and clinicians at all levels of training, and is a graduate of the Rabkin Fellowship in Medical Education. Dr. Clardy has received numerous awards for his ongoing commitment to teaching students and trainees, including the S. Robert Stone teaching award, and the Katherine Swan Ginsburg Faculty Award for Medical Humanism.

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**Upcoming Medical Education events & announcements that might interest you**

(Listed in order of occurrence or deadline)

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**Principles of Medical Education: Maximizing your Teaching Skills**

Sponsored by the Carl J Shapiro Institute for Education and Research at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
**Wednesday March 29-31, 2017**

The newest version of the CME course, Maximizing Your Teaching Skills, will be held at the end of March 2017. The course has been expanded over the past several years to offer more small group sessions on advanced skills including concept mapping and peer observation. There is also an optional simulation component, and we continue to hold 5 workshops in which all participants are engaged as part of the core curriculum.

Interest in the course remain very high (we sold out again last year) and we encourage everyone with an interest in an intense experience to sharpen your skills to sign up for the course. More details can be found at: [http://www.medicaleducators.hmscme.com/](http://www.medicaleducators.hmscme.com/)

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**Podcast of Past Academy Events: Medical Education Grand Rounds**

**Curriculum reform: Plus ça change?**  
**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

**Brian Hodges, MD, PhD, FRCP**  
Executive Vice-President Education, University Health Network; Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto; Scientist, Wilson Centre for Research in Education; Richard and Elizabeth Currie Chair in Health Professions Education

For the podcast of this event [click here](#)
The Use of Virtual Team-based Learning in Global Education
Friday, October 28, 2016

Ajay Singh, MBBS, FRCP, MBA
Senior Associate Dean for Global and Continuing Education
Director, Master in Medical Sciences in Clinical Investigation (MMSCI) program
Harvard Medical School

For the podcast of this event [click here]

Breaking Down the Barriers to Diversity and Inclusion
Friday, November 18, 2016

Joan Reede, MD
Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership, Professor of Medicine Harvard Medical School

For the podcast of this event [click here]

A system-based Vision for Medical Education in the 21st Century
Friday, December 16, 2016

Robert Englander, MD MPH
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, University of Minnesota Medical School

For the podcast of this event [click here]

Addressing Student Learning Challenges in the Context of Case Based Collaborative Learning and Clerkship Environments
Monday, February 6, 2017

Richard Goldhammer, EdM
Learning Specialist and Educational Consultant, Harvard Medical School

For the podcast of this event [click here]

New Medical Education Pubmed Citations from Academy Members

Please note that we use an automated search system to identify new pubmed-cited medical education literature. If we have missed a medical education paper you have published, please let us know. Also, please let us know if you have published medical education materials on MedEdPortal or other sites.

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