

October 22, 2008

AN OPEN LETTER OF INVITATION TO THE
UMASS MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE &
UMASS MEDICAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care
Registration is limited; applicant deadline is December 22nd

You are invited to participate in a unique reading and discussion group, *Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care*. Open to all members of the UMMHC and UMMS community -- physicians, nurses, allied health providers, community outreach workers, administrative and support staff, trustees, and medical, graduate nursing and GSBS students – the seminar is free and will meet one evening a month, January through June 2009. We will read works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction selected to encourage participants to explore the intricate nature of our relationships with patients and each other. With the guidance of experienced facilitator and humanities scholar Patrick Ireland, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, the College of the Holy Cross, we will discuss issues raised by the readings that are central to the human face of our work. All books (on loan) and other reading materials, and a light supper, will be provided as part of the program, which is offered through the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

We are pleased to participate in this powerful and innovative program, which has received national recognition. We hope you will consider joining us. The seminar will meet monthly, January through June, on Wednesday evenings, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The scheduled sessions are as follows:

- ❖ January 21, 2009 (*snow date: Jan. 28*)
- ❖ February 11, 2009 (*snow date: Feb. 18*)
- ❖ March 11, 2009 (*snow date: Mar. 18*)
- ❖ April 15, 2009
- ❖ May 13, 2009
- ❖ June 17, 2009

Our goal is to bring together a group that is small enough for everyone to participate actively in discussion, representing as many different parts of the UMMHC/UMMS community as possible. Within those guidelines, we will give priority to those who apply early. **Registration is limited; applicant deadline is December 22nd.** Those who enroll are asked to commit to attending a minimum of 5 of the 6 scheduled sessions. *Commitment to regular attendance has been found to be beneficial to the group overall, and to the experience of each individual participant.* **Sherly Jean-Bart (Office of Medical Education, UMMS), (508) 856-5487 or email sherly.jeanbart@umassmed.edu** if you want to participate or have questions about the seminar. Syllabus is available at http://library.umassmed.edu/humanities_med/litmed_syllabus.pdf