

## **SUMMARY**

## Medicine is a science. Making medicine better is an art.

Educating doctors through the arts is an emerging practice that gets to the root of healthcare: improving doctors' diagnostic abilities and helping physicians fight their own burnout. This practice, which can impact future physicians as early as their first year of medical school, has been proven to enhance patient care. Patients treated by arts-educated doctors and receiving arts-integrated care have measurably better outcomes

Greater Philadelphia excels both in the education of doctors and the treatment of patients. **Agenda: Wellness** is at the intersection of groundbreaking

advances in medicine and the region's world-class arts and culture sector. It's the connection of these legacies — from Thomas Eakins' 19th-century painting *The Gross Clinic*, pictured on the cover, to today's arts-infused medical curriculum — that raises the improvement of medicine, medical education and patient outcomes to an art form.

The Agenda series highlights existing research and resources that demonstrate the relevance and impact that arts and culture has in Greater Philadelphia, throughout the Commonwealth and across the country.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA CULTURAL ALLIANCE > AGENDA: WELLNESS



## IMPACT: ADVANCING PATIENT CARE

A study by Jefferson University's Salvatore Mangione, MD reveals the positive impact of arts and culture on medical students. Exposure to music, literature, theater, visual arts and other cultural activities results in **significant increases** in empathy, wisdom, confidence in their abilities, emotional intelligence and visual-spatial skills, which correlate to improved medical practice and better patient care.

As a result, Jefferson University and Lantern Theater Company partner to use theater to foster empathy in medical students and health professionals. Participants in the workshops draw on performance techniques and writing exercises that they then use to better see patient perspectives and engage with peers. A final, live performance is presented by Jefferson students and Lantern artists.

## **IMPACT: IMPROVING DIAGNOSIS**

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia found that students who took a six-part course in fine-art observation significantly improved their clinical observation skills. Medical students who participated in the study, which took place at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, showed a 26% increase in diagnostic and observation abilities.<sup>1</sup>

A quick and correct diagnosis saves lives, speeds recovery and reduces healthcare costs.<sup>2</sup> Hands-on and "eyes-on" exercises are part of the curriculum presented at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts for medical students and practicing physicians at Jefferson University, Drexel University College of Medicine

and Cooper Medical School at Rowan University. Improving observational skills through "visual literacy" enhances doctors' and students' abilities to differentiate between similar conditions, as well as to identify the changes caused by a syndrome or disease, in order to make the correct diagnosis.

# 26% increase

IN DIAGNOSTIC AND OBSERVATION ABILITIES



Photograph by Ed Cunicelli, courtesy of Paoli Hospital Foundation.

"Art training may be particularly helpful in specialties where diagnosis and treatment are based primarily on direct observation, such as ophthalmology, dermatology and radiology."

FINE-ART OBSERVATION RESULTS IN A

<sup>1</sup> Gurwin, J., A Randomized Controlled Study of Art Observation Training to Improve Medical Student Ophthalmology Skills.

<sup>2</sup> Khullar, D., Reducing Diagnostic Errors – Why Now?

## **IMPACT: FIGHTING BURNOUT**

Just as art improves empathy, confidence and wisdom among physicians and medical students, it also helps reduce the symptoms of burnout that are prevalent in the healthcare industry.<sup>1</sup> Medical students entering their residencies experience an average increase in depression symptoms of more than 15%,<sup>2</sup> and the rate of suicide among physicians is higher than any other occupation.<sup>3</sup>

Arts and culture gives doctors "emotional resilience, humility, mindfulness and humor." 1





Photograph by Betsy Manning, courtesy of Temple University.

At the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, the Narrative Medicine program seeks to "focus on the human side of medicine" by integrating storytelling and reflection into the curriculum. **Students and faculty participate in Narrative Medicine Story Slams,** reflecting on lessons learned and interactions with patients as a way to

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share and process personal and professional experiences.

<sup>1</sup> Mangione, S., et al. Medical Students' Exposure to the Humanities Correlates with Positive Personal Qualities and Reduced Burnout: a Multi-Institutional U.S. Survey.

<sup>2</sup> Mata, D.A., Prevalence of Depression and Depressive Symptoms Among Resident Physicians – A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.

<sup>3</sup> Agerbo, E., Suicide and Occupation: the Impact of Socio-Economic, Demographic and Psychiatric Differences.

<sup>4</sup> Physicians Foundation, 2016 Survey of America's Physicians: Practice Patterns and Perspectives.

RESEARCH

## **ART MAKES THE DIFFERENCE:**

Art intervention — arts-based therapies as well as the presence of art in public spaces and permanent galleries inside hospitals — results in:



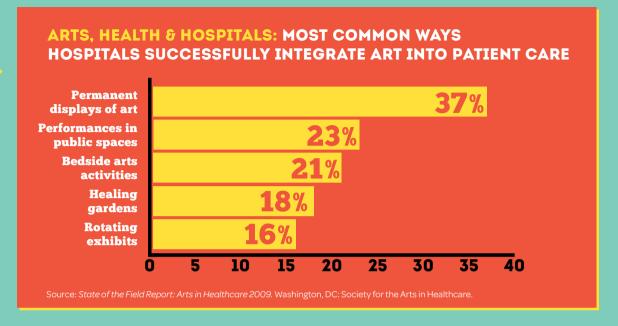




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<sup>1</sup> Staricoff, RL., Arts in Health: the Value of Evaluation.

<sup>2.</sup> Kreitzer M., Snyder M. Healing the Heart: Integrating Complementary Therapies and Healing Practices into the Care of Cardiovascular Patients.



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## PROJECT PARTNERS









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Photograph by Ed Cunicelli, courtesy of Paoli Hospital Foundation. FRONT PANEL: Photograph by Steve Belkowitz; The Gross Clinic courtesy of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia. Gift of the Alumni Association to Jefferson Medical College in 1878 and purchased by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 2007 with the generous support of more than 3,400 donors.