Course Name: The Language of Medicine: The Semantics, Pragmatics, and Poetics of Doctoring

Enrollment Period:	Open
Course Dates:	afternoons of September 5, 6, 7, & 8, 2023 (specific time TBD)
Student Max:	15
Class Year:	MS1, MS2
Course Director:	Barbara Duarte Esgalhado, PhD and Gaetan Sgro, MD
Course Administrator:	Gaetan Sgro, MD
Location:	9/5: Scaife 5709 1-3 pm 9/6: Scaife 5785 1-3 pm 9/7: Scaife 5709 1-3 pm 9/8: Scaife 5709 1-3 pm
Registration:	Via Amp Up - Registration open date will be announced via email
Course Description:	In this course students will examine how language shapes perception, develop greater linguistic awareness, and learn skills to enhance clinical reasoning, enable empathic communication, and promote healing. Drs. Duarte Esgalhado and Sgro, both clinicians and writers, will lead the class through a series of discussions and exercises that explore the differences between literal and implied meanings, the limits of language in communication, the impact of metaphor and analogy on perceptions of illness, the effects of stigmatizing language on clinical reasoning and health outcomes, and the role of language and revision in reframing both perception and experience. All readings—including excerpts from poetry and literature, as well as scientific papers—will be provided.
Objectives:	1. Distinguish between semantics & pragmatics and between metaphorical & literal language 2. Describe the limits of written and spoken language in communication 3. Identify specific ways in which metaphors influence the perception of illness 4. Critically examine the impact of word choice and storytelling on patient perceptions, stigma, clinical reasoning, and health outcomes 5. Develop skills to revise/reframe clinical and personal narratives to enhance clinical skills, enable empathic communication, and promote healing
Pre-Requisites:	None
Requirements:	Attend all sessions (or complete make-up assignments for excused absences).
Texts:	Provided and read in class *(no preparation required)*