

## **Master of Science in Narrative Medicine**

**38 credit Columbia University Master's Degree**

**Full-time for three semesters (Fall/spring/summer) or part-time over up to 5 years**

**Full information and applications through [www.narrativemedicine.org](http://www.narrativemedicine.org)**

The care of the sick unfolds in stories. The effective practice of healthcare requires the ability to recognize, absorb, interpret, and act on the stories and plights of others. Medicine practiced with narrative competence is a model for humane and effective medical practice. It addresses the need of patients and caregivers to voice their experience, to be heard and to be valued, and it acknowledges the power of narrative to change the way care is given and received.

The study of narrative medicine is profoundly multidisciplinary. The curriculum for the master's program in Narrative Medicine includes core courses in narrative theory, philosophy of the subject, the illness experience, the tools of close reading and creative writing; focused courses on narrative in fields like genetics, social justice advocacy, and palliative care; electives in a discipline of the student's choosing; and field work. Creativity, the use of the imagination, and the development of authentic relationships form the foundation of the narratively informed clinical practice.

The Program encourages applications from students planning to enter health professions schools. College graduates who are applying to medical school, nursing school, veterinary school, and social work school have successfully enrolled in and completed the MS program. Students can complete the Master of Science degree program in the so-called gap year between college graduation and matriculation in health profession school. Students who enter medical school and other health professions schools with Masters training in Narrative Medicine bring with them powerful tools to recognize patients and to form therapeutic alliances. They are able to guide their own professional development toward engagement and not detachment, toward patient-centered practices, and toward wellness and not burn-out. Narrative Medicine training shows them how to work in teams and to join collaboratively with patients and other health care professionals. Our graduates' practice from its beginning is infused with the imagination, with creativity, and with a deep recognition of the privilege of being a clinician.

Graduates of the Narrative Medicine program will be positioned to lead narrative medicine programs in medical schools and hospitals, developing, implementing, and evaluating the impact of these programs on clinical practice and quality of care. As program directors, division heads, department chairs and senior administrators, they will be equipped with skills to generate narrative work and supervise practitioners and to uphold and promote standards for intellectual, clinical and research work of narrative medicine.