This talk seeks to characterise and critique the textual mechanisms through which the genre of the contemporary medical case report (MCR) constructs the figures and voices of patients. In a corpus of post-1945 MCRs (n=497) randomly sampled from the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), The Lancet, the British Medical Journal (BMJ), the British Journal of General Practice (BJGP) and BMJ Case Reports, I delineate the possibilities these accounts offer and circumscribe for representing the patient. Progressing chronologically through the corpus using literary and cultural studies methodologies, the focus will be on the textual mechanisms through which the contemporary genre of the MCR constructs patients, and how these constructions are culturally influenced by, and redolent of, the textual methods and conditions in play in the period. I will delineate how MCRs portray patient subjectivities and voices and the means by which opportunities are missed for hearing empowered, autonomous voices by the use of formal techniques that textually silence and diminish patients’ roles in the formulation, dissemination and ownership of case-based medical knowledge.

Brian Hurwitz

Brian Hurwitz worked for 30 years as an inner city general practitioner. Since 2002, he’s been Professor of Medicine and the Arts at King’s College London where he co-directs the Centre for the Humanities and Health, a multidisciplinary research unit offering training at masters, PhD and postdoctoral levels for both humanities and clinically trained professionals (https://humanitiesandhealth.wordpress.com/) and seminars to the public. Prior to his current position he was Professor and Head of Department of Primary Care and General Practice at Imperial College London.

DETAILS

Date: 9 September 2019 (Mon)
Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Venue: HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)
Contact: Graham Matthews
         gmatthews@ntu.edu.sg

Register:

www.tinyurl.com/mh-brian-hurwitz

This event is organised by the Medical Humanities research cluster at the School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University.
For more information, please email soh_comms@ntu.edu.sg