

## *Mission*

The Institute of Medicine and Humanities seeks to promote positive healing environments for patients and providers of health care by:

- Applying the humanities to the study of medical questions.
- Addressing health care issues that challenge our understanding of what it means to be human.
- Advancing scholarship in the medical humanities.



## *Executive Director's Statement*

Dr. Francis Peabody said almost 80 years ago that “the secret of the care of the patient is in caring for the patient.” That is even more true now that scientific and technological advances have greatly increased our ability to cure disease. In the midst of powerful diagnostic tools, of sophisticated surgical techniques, of powerful new drugs, it is sometimes easy to lose sight of the very human nature of healing.

The IMH is dedicated to helping those who care for the sick and the suffering, the patients who seek care and cure. Lessons from the humanities can enhance our understanding of the human experiences of health and illness. Indeed, Thomas Mann once defined medicine as “that subdivision of the humanities.” It is in that spirit that the Institute of Medicine and Humanities pursues its work.

Herbert M. Swick, M.D.

## *Sample IMH Programs*

In recent years, the IMH has sponsored a number of innovative programs for health care professionals, the university community, and the public. The following partial list suggests the range and breadth of the IMH offerings.

- Collegium Medicum – a weekly broadcast, on Montana Public Radio, devoted to medicine and the arts.
- Careers, Callings and Conscience: Reflections of Contemporary Professional Life – a conference about the importance of professional values.
- Genethics: Assessing Critical Issues in Gene Technology – a symposium exploring the ethical, legal and social issues raised by advances in human genetics.
- Private Lives, Community Lives: The Search for Common Health – a symposium about the conflicts between individual health care rights and the greater good of the community.
- Images of Healing – a three part series that explored medicine as it is reflected in poetry, art and music.
- The Language of Death and Dying – a reading and discussion group at public libraries in Missoula and surrounding communities.
- Dealing with Sudden Unexpected Death – a series for health care professionals about the complex personal and professional issues surrounding the sudden unexpected death of a patient.



INSTITUTE OF  
MEDICINE AND  
HUMANITIES

CHILDREN & FAMILIES INTERIM COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 26, 2006  
**EXHIBIT 14**

*A joint program of Saint Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center  
and The University of Montana*

## *About the Institute*

Since its founding in 1987, the Institute of Medicine and Humanities (IMH) has endeavored to work at the interface of the humanities and medicine, using knowledge from the disciplines of the humanities to better understand the human dimensions of health care. Both the traditional humanities and the fine arts can illuminate the way we care for the sick.

The IMH is a joint program of Saint Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center and The University of Montana in Missoula. The IMH model is unique, since it is based not in an academic medical center but in an undergraduate university and a community hospital.

As a non-profit organization, the IMH operates under the direction and control of an Executive Board comprising health care professionals, university faculty and administration, and community representatives. An Advisory Committee assists the IMH in its missions, offering insights from the institute's constituencies. A full-time Executive Director heads the IMH staff.

The IMH receives operating support from both the hospital and the university. Two endowment funds allow program enrichment, and additional support is sought from grants and private donations. The IMH offices are located in the Saint Patrick Hospital.

## *IMH Activities*

The IMH engages in the traditional academic missions of teaching, service and research. Education is the backbone of the IMH – education of the public about important health care issues, education of health care professionals about the critical role of the humanities in compassionate patient care, and education of students and faculty about the complexities and nuances of medicine as reflected in the humanities. The Executive Director is on the faculty at the university and teaches in the medical humanities. The IMH serves as a resource to the communities of western Montana through its programs and the Ridge Library collection. Research is focused on ways in which the humanities can inform and improve health care.



## *The Ridge Library*

A generous gift from an anonymous donor enabled the Institute to begin a book and serial collection specific to the medical humanities. These collections, known as the Ridge Library, are housed in the Center for Health Information at Saint Patrick Hospital. This important resource contains materials in fields of literature and medicine, medical history, pathography, bioethics, and similar disciplines. It also includes works of poetry and fiction that relate to illness and healing. The Ridge Library is available for students, scholars and members of the public.

## *The Distinguished Visiting Professor Program*

Every other year, the IMH sponsors the Distinguished Visiting Professor Program, bringing to the university campus and the hospital a nationally known scholar in the medical humanities. The visiting professors provide fresh perspectives and expertise to help advance the scholarly work of the institute. They enrich the Institute's activities by teaching at the university, participating in other IMH programs, and continuing their own line of research in the medical humanities.

Prior visiting professors have come from the disciplines of ethics, religious studies, history, literature, and philosophy.



## *For More Information*

If you would like to learn more about the Institute of Medicine and Humanities or its programs, we invite you to contact us at (406) 329-5662 or visit our Web site at [www.saintpatrick.org/imh](http://www.saintpatrick.org/imh).

