

Available Projects for MSRPP Medical Students

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Medical Journalism, Medical Humanities, Public Health

COVID-19 Narratives: Physicians Reflect

Narratives have long been a way that members of the medical profession share and reflect on their experiences. Over the years, physicians and medical students have published many such narratives in essay sections of journals such as *JAMA*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and *Health Affairs*. Likewise, many such narratives have appeared in blogs. Recently, experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic have been a frequent focus of such narratives. In this project, the student will collect such published or posted narratives from various sources. The student will then analyze the narratives, identifying items such as common themes and temporal or other patterns. The student also may compare the narratives with some from times such as the early years of the AIDS epidemic. Products may include an annotated bibliography for posting or publication.

Physician Spokespeople in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Physicians often serve as spokespeople during medical crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, various physicians have done so; examples include Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx on the national level, Dr. Amy Acton in Ohio, and Dr. Seth Sullivan of the Brazos County Health District. In this project, the student will describe, analyze, and evaluate the communications of one or more physician spokespeople during the COVID-19 pandemic. In doing so, the student will draw on materials in the popular media and elsewhere. For context, the student will review selected literature in relevant subject areas, such as risk communication, crisis communication, and physician leadership. On the basis the research for this project, the student may develop recommendations for physicians acting in such roles.