

Noah Rosenberg A 2012 graduate with Alpha Omega Alpha honors from UMass Chan, Noah also completed his residency at UMass and served as the Chief Resident in his final year. He obtained his MBA at Harvard Business School while practicing as an academic hospitalist. He joined Dispatch Health in 2021 as the Advanced Care Medical Director for Texas and has since been promoted to Regional Medical Director, covering half of the United States. Noah resides in Dallas and in addition to his professional work, has volunteered at Christ's Family Clinic, a charity clinic for uninsured adults.

Alexander Hamel A first year student at UMass Chan Medical School, Alex graduated from UMass Amherst with a degree in biochemistry. His creative writing is influenced by the many pioneers of American literature from his hometown of Concord, Massachusetts. He enjoys sports and outdoor activities. Alex works as a student leader in both the Sidekicks program and the Learning Communities at UMass Chan.

Elizabeth M. Irvin Liz is a third year student at UMass Chan Medical School on the Population-Based Urban and Rural Community Health (PURCH) track. She studied Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies at Barnard College in New York. She reports that in medicine, a discipline that often encourages practitioners to deny their own vulnerability, poetry has become her vital countercurrent, a practice of remaining sensitive to the pain and joy of healing. Liz's essays and poems have appeared in *Hektoen International*, *Neologism Poetry Journal*, *Burningword Literary Journal*, and *Thimble Literary Magazine*.



The 20th Annual Gerald F. Berlin Creative Writing Prize

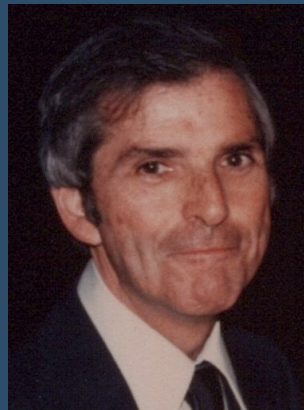
Award Ceremony
& Readings

March 26, 2024 6pm

About the Gerald F. Berlin...*Continued...*

The author of the poetry collection, *How JFK Killed My Father*, which describes his father's illness and his own career in medicine, and the book *Secret Wounds* (2011), Dr. Richard M. Berlin believes, "Creative writing gives medical students a special opportunity to reflect on their experiences, to maintain their humanity, and to heighten their empathy for the suffering of their patients. These are qualities that bring doctors closer to their patients, and I know these are the qualities my father always looked for and admired in his own physicians."

Along with Dr. Berlin, judges for the award include David Hatem, MD and Susan Tarrant, Director, Patient Care Services, and Sunita Puri, MD.



Gerald F. Berlin, 1978

About the Gerald F. Berlin Creative Writing Prize

The Gerald F. Berlin Creative Writing Award is funded by a donation from Richard M. Berlin, M.D., a poet and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Berlin established the Award to encourage creative writing among UMass Chan students and residents, and to honor his father who struggled with a severe chronic illness.

Read more on the last page

Event Program

Welcome & Introductory Remarks

David Hatem, MD

Summary of the Award's History

Richard M. Berlin, MD

Readings

Dissection; Interstate 290 (poetry) 2005

My Father's House in Jalisco (essay) 2008

Sushrut Jangi, MD (Previous Winner)

His Name is Phil

Essay by Melanie Fu (Honorable Mention)

Grief Sandwich

Essay by Darya Herscovici (Honorable Mention)

Little Brown Bird

Essay by Peyton Morss-Walton, MD (Previous Winner)

Hospital Food

Essay by Abigail DeNike (Third Prize)

To Be a Body

Essay by Hyein Sarah Lee (Second Prize)

The Honeycomb; Per Diem (poetry) 2010

My Beautiful Boy (poetry) 2011

Coming of Age in Baghdad (poetry) 2012

Noah Rosenberg, MD, MBA, FAFP (Previous Winner)

Shadow

Essay by Alexander Hamel (Honorable Mention)

Two True Stories

Essay by Elizabeth M. Irvin (First Prize)

About the Readers

Sushrut Jangi, MD After completing medical school at UMass, Sushrut completed his Internal Medicine residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and a fellowship in Gastroenterology at Brigham and Women's. He then completed training in inflammatory bowel disease from UC San Diego. He currently works as an inflammatory bowel disease doctor at Tufts Medical Center. He has written extensively for the *Boston Globe* and has also written for NPR, the *New Republic*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and the *San Diego Tribune*.

Melanie Fu Melanie is first year UMass Chan medical student. Melanie was born in Ohio and raised in California. This is her eighth year in Massachusetts. Melanie is always trying to write more and in her free time, she enjoys being creative, seeing live music, and video calling her family dog, Cabernet.

Darya Herscovici Darya is a fourth year UMass Chan medical student and will be staying at UMass for an Internal Medicine residency beginning in July. She is from Framingham, MA and enjoys caring for complex liver patients. Darya is also an award winner from last year.

Peyton Morss-Walton Since winning the award in 2020, Peyton went on to create a collection of written reflections for her fourth year capstone project. Peyton is a 2021 graduate of UMass Chan and matched in Dermatology at Montefiore-Einstein in the Bronx. She spent her intern year (2021-2022), in a Medicine TY at Cambridge Health Alliance, got married in 2021, and in 2022 moved to New York City to work in the Bronx for the following three years.

Abigail DeNike Abigail is a first year medical student at UMass Chan. Originally from Spokane, Washington, Abigail attended Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She minored in creative writing in college and wrote for the marketing department chronicling life on campus. She loves storytelling and continues to refine this practice through interacting with patients and reflection.

Hyein Sarah Lee Hyein is a third year MD/PhD student at UMass Chan, studying how to use digital tools to better understand suicide and mental illness. She has written since she was in high school and is inspired by unfinished sentences and words that go nowhere.