The Stanford Literature & Medicine Dinner and Discussion series provides an opportunity for physicians to come together and share a meal while discussing works of literature. Led by a skilled medical humanities facilitator, the program provides a supportive environment for candid and thoughtful discussion among physician colleagues to explore the challenges and rewards of being a doctor.

Sponsored by the Office of the Dean and the Stanford Committee for Professional Satisfaction and Support.
Why Literature & Medicine?

Literature in the form of essays, short stories and poems provides an ideal catalyst for thoughtful discussion on the human experience as explored through story. Reading about other's experiences allows us to walk in their shoes, thus gaining insight and empathy into the lives of others.

Building Community

This program allows physician colleagues of different ages, backgrounds and specialties to come together in a non-medical environment to share a meal and participate in an often lively, thought-provoking and wide-ranging discussion of the evening’s readings.

Each group meets once a month for six months for a two hour session in the Bing Dining Room at Stanford Hospital.

What participants have to say about Literature & Medicine at Stanford

“I have loved this group. In fact, I was sad I had to miss one of these sessions...It was a wonderful to be with a group of peers of different specialties and different backgrounds.”

“It has been a wonderful luxury to come and discuss humanities, ideas, literature with other physicians. I get so isolated from other disciplines, it's gratifying to hear the perspective of doctors with training in other areas.”

“I think it is important for physicians to have a forum like this to discuss challenging topics we face day to day in our clinics.”

“The program has taught me to be more thoughtful when interpreting situations - to see the "gray" areas of situations and issues more.”

Supporting Our Medical Faculty

• Time to read and reflect with colleagues.
• Offered conveniently on campus.
• Dinner and course reader provided.
• Free program open to all Stanford physicians.

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