Thursday, May 16, 2019
Department of Family, Population, and Preventive Medicine, Room 067
4:00pm- 5:30pm

The Doctors Are In: Poetry Presentation

Drs. Maria Basile, Richard Bronson, and Jack Coulehan. Choreographed and Adapted for Presentation by Lauren Kaushansky.

It is an unusual combination, Physician and Poet. Perhaps the poets and writers Anton Chekhov, Arthur Conan Doyle, William Carlos Williams sound familiar, and women such as Danielle Ofri and Perri Klass are newer additions. The "Doctors" in this case are members of the Astonished Harvest Writers Group, based in the Renaissance School of Medicine. Drs. Basile, Bronson, and Coulehan, have used their keen observations, compassionate spirits, and gifts as wordsmiths to compose poems that revolve around the practice of medicine, but their work is also a more encompassing reflection of their richly dimensional lives.

The word *play* is not often associated with doctors, but if you use the theatrical definition, our objective becomes clear. Ancient Greek theater was a means to reflect upon culture, exploring political, social and medical themes through comedy and drama. In today's presentation poetry jumps off the page as our physicians walk around the room, enriching the audience experience with movement, images and music. Enjoy! *Lauren Kaushansky*

Maria Basile, MD
Dr. Maria Basile is Assistant Vice President, Medical Affairs at Mather Hospital/Northwell Health. A colorectal surgeon by training, she is a Past President of the Suffolk County Medical Society and serves on the Council of the Medical Society of the State of New York. She is author of *Minimally Invasive: Poems from a Life in Surgery.* Her poems have appeared in *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Touch: The Journal of Healing*, and anthologized with poetry and creative writing of physicians, surgeons, and other health care professionals.

Richard Bronson, MD
Richard Bronson is Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Director of Reproductive Endocrinology at Stony Brook University Medical Center. He is a recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award of the Arnold Gold Foundation and the APGO Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Bronson is the author of four collections of poetry. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association, and on the editorial board of *The Pharos of AOA*. A recipient of the Poem of the Year Award of the American College of Physicians, his poems have appeared in *JAMA, The Annals of Internal Medicine, the Canadian Medical Association Journal, and The Pharos.*

Jack Coulehan, MD
Jack Coulehan is a Senior Fellow of the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care, and Bioethics. His essays, poems and stories appear frequently in medical journals and literary magazines, and are widely anthologized. He is the author of six collections of poetry, including *The Wound Dresser* (2016), which was a finalist for the Dorset Poetry Prize. He is the editor of two anthologies of poems by physicians; *Chekhov's Doctors*, a collection of Anton Chekhov's medical tales; and an award-winning textbook The *Medical Interview: Mastering Skills for Clinical Practice.* Among Jack's honors are the Humanities Award of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and the Nicholas Davies Scholar Award of the American College of Physicians for lifetime contributions to the humanities in medicine.

Lauren Kaushansky, MA
Lauren Kaushansky teaches classes in education and drama as well as history. Her love of theatre production and choreography infuse vitality and perspective into the performance of our physician poets. Her passion for drama has guided her in directing performances around the world from Africa to Cambodia, introducing uplifting theatre in hospitals and schools. A Distinguished Lecturer at Stony Brook University, she is actively involved in the medical school's educational programs that engage theatrical production and design.