The Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics

GRAND ROUNDS

Thursday, April 13, 2023
Location: Zoom *(please RSVP for link)*
5:00pm- 6:00pm

Autism in Dance

Allison Dammann and Ashna Raiker

Stony Brook's Autism in Dance Initiative is a medical student-led community initiative that uses the power of dance to engage adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities in the local community. We utilize dance and movement as tools to encourage self-expression, empathy, and connection within and between our dancers. The Autism in Dance Initiative provides a space for creativity and expression that is therapeutic for both community members and medical students. It leaves a lasting impression through creating rewarding relationships that last long after the music ends.

Allison Dammann (she/her) is a second-year MD/MA student at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. She earned her BA from Middlebury College in 2019 with a major in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry and a minor in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies. She is the Vice President of the Autism in Dance Initiative. She is passionate about advocacy in medicine, and was a member of the 2022 elected boards of Stony Brook's chapters of the Medical Student Pride Alliance and Medical Students for Choice. She has been dancing since she was four years old, and is thrilled to be able to share her love of dance with community members here in Suffolk County.

Ashna Raiker (she/her) is a second-year medical student at the Renaissance School of Medicine with a Bachelors of Science. She earned her B.S. at Stony Brook University, as part of the Scholars for Medicine and Women in Science and Engineering Honors programs. She complements this with a commitment to research, having presented at various national forums. Outside of academia, Ashna is a dancer. She is the President of the Autism in Dance community initiative. She is also strongly driven to contribute toward community health in underserved areas. At Stony Brook Medicine's student-run free health clinic, she co-founded a project on exploring barriers to telehealth and volunteers as clinic manager. She further finds fulfillment in mentorship and teaching. Apart from engaging in various teaching positions, she was chair of the clinic's Undergraduate Clinical Education Program. Finally, she believes diversity and equity are synonymous with compassionate patient care. She was President of her medical school's Women in Surgery group (chapter of AWS), and is currently on the Women in Interventional Radiology medical student committee of SIR.

Please RSVP here or to
bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu

To learn more about the **Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics** and the Master of Arts program, please visit **stonybrook.edu/bioethics/masters**