

GRAND ROUNDS



Thursday, March 20, 2025

Location: Zoom (*RSVP for link*)

4:00pm- 5:30pm EST

RSVP [here](#) or

bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu

Love, Family, and Grace: An Update from Dementia Man

Samuel A. Simon

Is it possible to believe in a meaningful future
with a neurocognitive disease?

Dementia Man, An Existential Journey is the award-winning autobiographical story of a man who faces his diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, by actor and playwright Samuel A. Simon. It is a peek into the head and heart of the struggle with a broken medical system and a personal and family challenge.

Join us for a preview of the stage production of *Dementia Man*, followed by an open and intimate conversation with the show's creator, moderated by Center Associate Director, Dr Maria Basile. During the conversation, we'll discuss the progress of Sam's work, and how he and his family have been able to thrive and flourish by facing his diagnosis focused on the most meaningful aspects of life.



Samuel A (Sam) Simon is an unlikely playwright, author, and performer. He describes his work as his "fourth age." He comes to it after a career as a prominent member of America's consumer movement. Trained as a lawyer, he started his career as one of the original members of Ralph Nader's first legal advocacy group in Washington, DC in 1970. Early in his career, his leadership was recognized through a profile in the New York Times. (NY Times, Jan 29, 1971, p. B1). After a stint in the US Army as a JAG Captain, Sam returned to work for Ralph Nader. He then started his own consulting firm. During that time, Sam became a regular in the national news, appearing on programs such as Face the Nation, The Today Show, Good Morning America, CBS Morning News, The Nightly News, Phil Donahue Show, and the Oprah Winfrey Show. Sam has also been a leading advocate for inclusion and served for 15 years on the board of the World Institute on Disability, and was awarded the Frank Bowe Award for Disability Advocacy by Hofstra University.

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