

GRAND ROUNDS

Thursday, February 14th

HSC, Level 3, LH 6 ([directions](#))

5:00pm- 6:30pm

The Art of Observation & the Observation of Art

Sal Mangione, MD

Astute observation is a right-brained skill and one that is highly desirable for a physician, since it's not only essential for diagnosis but also for empathetic connection. Osler agreed. "The whole art of Medicine" he remarked "is in observation." In fact, he saw "no more difficult art to acquire than the art of observation." Yet, this skill is not taught during medical school or residency, and in fact may even be hindered by a curriculum heavily skewed towards the sciences. The result is the missing of many important clues. As Holmes reminded Watson, "You see, but you do not *observe*." Leonardo put it more bluntly: "There are three classes of people: those who see, those who see only when shown, and those who can't see."

Hence, *observing* artworks might offer a simple but effective way to rekindle both the right brain and the power of observation, and thus in turn improve bedside detection of physical findings. It may even help the reading of faces, a fundamental skill for a physician. Lastly, art observation fosters visual-spatial thinking -- a fundamental aspect of innovation and creativity.

Building on this premise we'll present a series of cases that might: 1) Enhance participants' interest in the arts; 2) Suggest how this might actually be beneficial for the practice of medicine; 3) Present pathognomonic physical findings; and 4) Foster "visual literacy," i.e., the ability to find meaning in imagery, which in turn translates into the capacity to reason physiology and pathophysiology from visual clues -- a desirable skill for all physicians.

Please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 11th to bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu



*Dr. Mangione is a clinician-educator with a long interest in Physical Diagnosis, Medical History and community service. His innovative programs and engaging teaching style have been recognized by multiple awards for clinical teaching, and his work has been featured in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Wall Street Journal, the BBC, CNN, NPR and Forbes. Dr. Mangione has been an invited speaker at many national and international meetings, especially in regard to the role of visual arts as a way to teach bedside observation. He's the author of the book *Secrets in Physical Diagnosis*.*



Stony Brook Medicine

www.stonybrook.edu/bioethics