



Wednesday, 03 November 2021

12:00-1:00 p.m. (EST)

**LIVE IN PINN HALL CONFERENCE CENTER AUDITORIUM**  
**(MASKS REQUIRED)**

and on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82231534062>

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## **“Off the Chart”: Elegy, Ecstasy, Dissent, and Other Subversive Modes in Clinician Creative Writing**

**Laura Kolbe, MD, MPhil**

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Assistant Clinical Ethicist at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City

Irène Mathieu MD, moderator

Our lives as clinicians, patients, or other participants in healthcare are riddled with text. In this surplus of language, what forms of language are crowded out or unspoken? What do we censor as “improper” for the written record – and why, and how can we reclaim these lost realms of affect and experience? In this talk, Laura Kolbe will read from her new poetry collection *Little Pharma* and discuss “experimental entanglements” between art-making and the practice of care, focusing on the productive tension between the ways we use language as clinicians, as poets, and in other shifting roles.

### Suggested resources:

1. Frost, Robert, and Mark Richardson. *The Collected Prose of Robert Frost*. Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007. Print.
2. Ngai, Sianne. *Ugly Feelings*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2005. Print.
3. Percival, Thomas, and Edmund D. Pellegrino. *Medical Ethics, Or, a Code of Institutes and Precepts, Adapted to the Professional Conduct of Physicians and Surgeons.*, 1985. Print.
4. Ruefle, Mary. *On Imagination*. Louisville, Kentucky: Sarabande Books, 2017. Print.

**Laura Kolbe, MD, MPhil** is an assistant professor of medicine and an assistant clinical ethicist at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City. Her debut poetry collection, *Little Pharma*, won this year’s Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize and is published this month by the University of Pittsburgh’s Pitt Poetry Series. She studied English and American literature at Harvard and at the University of Cambridge before receiving her M.D. from the University of Virginia, where she was a Hook Scholar in Humanities and Ethics. She then completed her medical residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, before moving back to New York City to join Weill Cornell’s Clinical Scholars program in hospital medicine and pursue a fellowship in medical ethics. She has published poetry, fiction, personal essays, and criticism in publications including *The New York Review of Books*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Nation*, *American Poetry Review*, *Conjunctions*, *Poetry*, *New England Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Yale Review*, and elsewhere. For additional information, please visit [www.laura-kolbe.com](http://www.laura-kolbe.com) or follow @laurakolbemd on Twitter.

**Dr. Irène P. Mathieu** is a general pediatrician at the University of Virginia, where she is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Director of the Program in Health Humanities. She earned a BA in International Relations from the College of William & Mary before completing a Fulbright research fellowship in the Dominican Republic. She attended Vanderbilt University Medical School and completed residency at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she was selected as a Global Health Track resident. She is currently a candidate for a Master's of Public Health at Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Mathieu has conducted mixed-methods and community-engaged research in Guatemala, Dominican Republic, and Virginia and Tennessee in the USA. She serves on the steering committee of Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action.


She is also the author of three poetry collections – *Grand Marronage*, which was selected as Editor's Choice for the Gatewood Prize and runner-up for the Cave Canem/Northwestern book prize; *orogeny*, which won the Bob Kaufman Book Prize; and *the galaxy of origins*. Dr. Mathieu serves as a poetry book reviewer for *Muzzle Magazine* and an editor for the *Journal of General Internal Medicine's* humanities section, and she has received creative writing fellowships from Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Dr. Mathieu's creative and advocacy work has been featured on NPR, *LA Times*, Doctors Who Create, #MedHumChat, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, KevinMD, and many other media outlets and publications.

Medical Center Hour is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, see Center for Health Humanities and Ethics: <https://med.virginia.edu/biomedical-ethics/medical-center-hour/>

Watch Medical Center Hour recordings at <https://www.youtube.com/user/UVAMCH>

Drs. Kolbe and Mathieu have declared no personal/professional relationships with commercial entities producing healthcare goods and/or services related to this presentation. Medical Center Hour planning group members M.D. Childress PhD; R.J. Bonnie LLB; R. Carpenter DrNP; J.F. Childress PhD; M.F. Marshall PhD; J. Mutter MD MA; K. Reid PhD RN FNP-C CNL; L. Shepherd JD have no personal/professional relationships with commercial entities producing healthcare goods and/or services, while R. Dillingham MD MPH reports interests with Gilead and Warm Health Technology Inc. UVA Office of Continuing Medical Education faculty and staff have no personal/professional financial relationships with commercial entities producing healthcare goods and/or services.

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