“Love, Words and Medicine”

The process of healing is a mystery that cannot be explained completely by a scientific approach. Analysis will miss the humanistic qualities that are required to address and serve the complexity of the human spirit. If Health Care Professionals are to achieve optimum healing we must attend to both the science and the humanity of health care. Poems and stories provide balance to the provider’s life and move us away from the Cold and Distant Physician into a deeper understanding of human nature and an affection for the patient and his/her suffering.

Dr. David Watts
Clinical Professor
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David Watts, M.D., is a gastroenterologist and Clinical Professor at the UCSF School of Medicine, a physician writer who has published six books of poetry, four anthologies, and two books of short stories about the complexities of the Doctor-Patient Relationship. He has also written two novels, one a mystery and the other best-selling western. He is a classically trained musician, a TV and radio host, and an NPR commentator. He has taken particular interest in measures to warm the cold and distant physician and is a strong advocate for literature and humanities in the medical school curriculum.

About the Chang Lecture on Art and Medicine

This lecture series was established in honor of the extraordinary Chang family linking art and medicine. Dr. Cheng-Yang Chang was the first pediatric urologist at UM and a steadfast supporter of the Urology Department. Son of the esteemed Chinese painter Ku-Nien Chang, Dr. Chang funded “The Shirley Chang Gallery of Chinese Art” in the UM Museum of Art expansion, in honor of his late wife.