

The Gerald H. Dubin, MD Art, Empathy & Healing Seminar 2026 Theme: The Art of Humor in Healing

Join us for the inaugural Gerald H. Dubin, MD Art, Empathy & Healing Seminar, an interdisciplinary educational experience exploring how humor, empathy, friendship, and human connection influence healing for patients, caregivers, and health care professionals. Through personal narrative, integrative oncology, neuroscience, humor research, practical clinical application, music, and panel discussion, participants will examine how humor can support resilience, communication, well-being, and the human experience of illness and caregiving. Presented free of charge to the public. CME options for Physicians, Nurses and Social Workers.

Thursday, October 8, 2026

1:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Bookout Auditorium: 6670 Bertner Ave.

Complimentary Valet at 6670 Bertner, Self Parking at TMC Garage #1 or McGovern Commons

Program

1:30 PM	Registration & Refreshments in Foyer	
2:00 PM	Welcome & Introduction of Gerry Dubin, MD	J. Todd Frazier
2:05 PM	Opening Remarks Performance of “Smile”	Gerald H. Dubin, MD Dehner Franks, Piano
2:20 PM	Featured Presentation: “Letters to Dr. Wiggy” Performance of “When You Smile” <i>A powerful story of friendship, humor, support, and communication through a cancer journey. Their experience offers a compelling example of how human connection can shape the experience of illness and recovery.</i>	Ellen Mandel, DMA Susan Maxam, DMA Dehner Franks, Piano
3:20 PM	Break in Foyer	
3:35 PM	Medical Perspectives: Integrative Medicine in Oncology <i>Exploring the role of integrative medicine and whole-person care in the oncology setting.</i>	Lois M. Ramondetta, MD
3:50 PM	Neurologic/Biophysiological Response to Laughter <i>An exploration of the emerging science behind humor and laughter, including neurologic, physiologic, and human responses associated with humor.</i>	Christoph Karmonic, PhD
4:05 PM	Applied Humor in Practice <i>Practical approaches for incorporating humor to support patients, families, and caregivers in healthcare settings.</i>	Amy Standridge, MM, MT-BC
4:20 PM	Physician Perspective <i>Reflections from the CPAM Susan and C. Richard Stasner MD Chair in Performing Arts Medicine</i>	Robert Jackson MD, MACP
4:25 PM	Panel Discussion and Audience Questions	Moderator: J. Todd Frazier
5:10 PM	Closing Comments	Gerald H. Dubin, MD
5:15-6:00 PM	Reception in Foyer	

Musical performances will be incorporated throughout the afternoon as part of the seminar experience by pianist Dehner Franks.