

Thursday, October 8, 2026, 1:30 PM – 6:00 PM
 John F. Bookout Auditorium, 6670 Bertner Ave.

Program

1:30 PM	Registration & Refreshments in Foyer	
2:00 PM	Welcome & Introduction of Gerald H. Dubin, MD <i>Todd Frazier is the Senior Director of the Center for Performing Arts Medicine (CPAM) and holder of the Gerald H. Dubin, MD Presidential Distinguished Centennial Chair in the Art of Medicine.</i>	J. Todd Frazier
2:05 PM	Opening Remarks <i>Psychiatrist and benefactor of the CPAM Chair in the Art of Medicine, Dr. Dubin will open the inaugural “Art, Empathy and Healing” Seminar with a personal reflection on the role of humor in his life and career.</i> Performance: Smile <i>CPAM staff pianist Dehner Franks plays music daily at Houston Methodist in Crain Garden and Bush Atrium. He is joined by his wife, Jan, a professional musician and literary artist.</i>	Gerald H. Dubin, MD Dehner and Jan Franks, Piano/Voice
2:20 PM	Featured Presentation <i>Happily Ever After:</i> <i>Humor, Narrative, and the Human Side of Medicine</i> <i>Pace University’s Dr. Mandel and Dr. Maxam explore how humor, laughter, and storytelling can be incorporated seamlessly into medical education and clinical practice — not as a distraction from serious medicine, but as an invaluable tool to connect patients with each other, their physicians, and caregivers.</i> Performance: When You Smile	Ellen Krumholz Mandel, PhD Sue Maxam, EdD Dehner Franks, Piano
3:20 PM	Break in Foyer	
3:35 PM	Medical Perspectives <i>Humor in Oncology: Where Does That Fit?</i> <i>Professor of Gynecologic Oncology at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center Dr. Ramondetta shares the role of whole-person care in the oncology setting.</i>	Lois Ramondetta, MD, CIAYT, ACLM
3:50 PM	<i>Neurologic and Biophysiological Response to Laughter</i> <i>CPAM’s Research Scientist, Dr. Trish Winter, explores the emerging science behind humor and laughter, including neurologic, physiologic, and human responses.</i>	Patricia “Trish” Winter, MT-BC, PhD
4:05 PM	<i>Play On:</i> <i>Humor, Music, and Staying Whole While Caring for Others</i> <i>Real stories from a caregiver choir reveal how humor and shared ritual help caregivers stay whole while caring deeply for others.</i>	Amy Standridge, MM, MT-BC, CHP
4:20 PM	Panel Discussion and Audience Questions	J. Todd Frazier, Moderator
5:00 PM	Physician Perspective <i>Reflections from Dr. Jackson, holder of the Susan and C. Richard Stasney, MD Chair in Performing Arts Medicine.</i>	Robert Jackson, MD, MACP
5:10 PM	Closing Comments	Gerald H. Dubin, MD
5:15 PM	Reception in Foyer	

Musical performances will be incorporated throughout the afternoon by pianist Dehner Franks.