

GRAND ROUNDS

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Location: Zoom- *Please RSVP for link*

4:30pm- 6:00pm

Please RSVP [here](#) or to

bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu

Picturing Pandemic Disease

Bobbi Coller, PhD & Barry S. Coller, MD

The current coronavirus pandemic is the largest and most devastating epidemic that we have experienced in our lifetimes. Historically, however, widespread episodic suffering from communicable disease began when humans started living in close proximity and was first recorded in the description of the deadly pandemic in Athens in 430 B.C.E. Artists who have witnessed the suffering and social dislocation wrought by waves of pandemics have created powerful images that capture and evoke the impact in particularly visceral ways.

Picturing Pandemic Disease will describe and discuss works of art produced during the onslaught of three major pandemics--the Black Death in the Middle Ages, the 1918 influenza pandemic, and the polio myelitis pandemic of the twentieth century ---placing them in the context of the medical understanding of the disease at the time of the outbreaks. The presentation will also highlight the societal impact of the pandemics and the tension they inevitably produce for physicians who are caught between individual patient-focused medical care and public health responsibilities.

The session, co-taught by Bobbi Coller, Ph.D. and Barry Coller, M.D. is adapted from their course “The Pulse of Art: Connections Between the History of Art and the History of Medicine” offered at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.



Bobbi Coller is an art historian, independent curator, and art educator. She received a B.S. in Education from New York University and a Ph.D. in Art History from the Graduate Center of CUNY. She has taught Modern and Contemporary art history at Long Island University, CW. Post Campus. In addition, she has curated over thirty exhibitions including “The Artist’s Mother: Portraits and Homages” shown at the National Portrait Gallery, and several others which were circulated throughout the United States by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibitions Service. She currently directs the OZ Gallery in Manhattan and chairs the Advisory Board of the Pollock-Krassner House and Study Center, which is part of Stony Brook University.



Barry S. Coller received his BA degree from Columbia College and his MD from New York University School of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Bellevue Hospital and advanced training in hematology at the National Institutes of Health. He was a faculty member at Stony Brook from 1976-1993 and developed the drug abciximab while at Stony Brook. He currently serves as the David Rockefeller Professor of Medicine; Head, Allen and Frances Adler Laboratory of Blood and Vascular Biology; and Physician-in-Chief of The Rockefeller University Hospital at The Rockefeller University. He is past president of the American Society of Hematology and is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Coller’s research interests have focused on hemostasis and thrombosis, in particular platelet physiology.



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