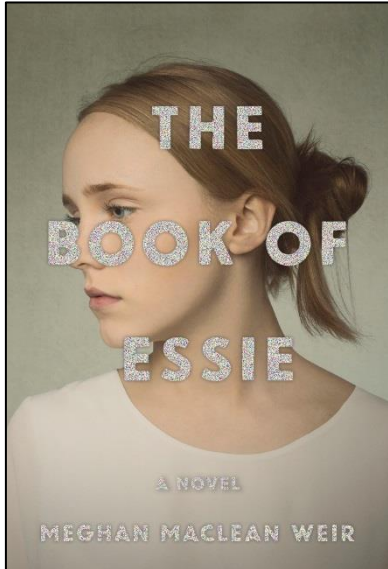


GRAND ROUNDS

BOOK READING & DISCUSSION



Thursday, October 18th
Health Science Center

Level 3, Room 152

5:00pm

For more info contact:

bioethics@stonybrook.edu

or 444-8029

[directions](#)

[RSVP](#) appreciated



The Book of Essie:

The Role of Literature in Public Health

Anton Chekhov once famously described his dual role as physician and writer in a letter to a friend this way: "Medicine is my lawful wife, and literature is my mistress. When I get fed up with one, I spend the night with the other." Though few physician-writers will achieve the same degree of fame as the likes of Chekhov, William Carlos Williams, or Michael Crichton, the abundance of poets, essayists, and novelists in the field is hardly surprising. Medicine, after all, is essentially storytelling, and storytelling, at its most pure, can be healing.

Despite this, most physician-writers describe the two callings as separate, if complementary. But, just as primary care pediatricians now consider it part of their medical practice to blog about the importance of flu shots or publish regular newsletters to increase health literacy, so, too, should the physician-writer embrace their craft, in certain instances, as part of, rather than apart from, their practice of medicine. The Book of Essie was written with this goal in mind. The story raises issues I grappled with during each of my shifts in the Emergency Department and allowed me to reach an audience far larger than I could have within the hospital walls

Meghan MacLean Weir, MD

Affiliated Physician, Boston Children's Hospital

MEGHAN MACLEAN WEIR was raised in the rectory of her father's church in Southbridge, Massachusetts, and later moved with her family to Buffalo, New York. Her memoir Between Expectations: Lessons from a Pediatric Residency chronicles her years in training at Boston Medical Center and Boston Children's Hospital. She continues to live and work as a physician in the Boston area. THE BOOK OF ESSIE is her first novel and was a finalist for the New England Book Award.

The author holds degrees in Molecular Biology and Medical Anthropology from Princeton and Oxford Universities, respectively, and graduated from the Stony Brook School of Medicine in 2006. She has participated in research and training programs in South Africa, Liberia, and Sri Lanka that have been funded in part by the Stony Brook School of Medicine, Children's Hospital Boston, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Her essays have appeared in the Boston Globe Magazine as well as hospital publications at both her former and current institutions and excerpts of her writing have been used in the Humanism in Medicine curriculum for interns at the Boston Combined Residency Program.