Comics and Medicine: Building Collections and Raising Awareness

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Library Collection

The Lamar Soutter Library began a Graphic Medicine collection in August of 2016 and it has continued to grow, both in size and popularity. Dr. Ian Williams’ The Bad Doctor, a memoir about a physician with OCD, and Allie Brosh’s Hyperbole and a Half, stories about life with depression, are among the most popular titles.

Educational Opportunities

On December 5, 2016 the NNLM/NER and LSL hosted James Sturm, Director of the Center for Cartoon Studies. James spoke on Graphic Medicine, focusing on a CCS partnership with White River Junction VA. An anthology of comics from this partnership is available in the Lamar Soutter Library.

On March 7th, 2017, a webinar titled “Introduction to Graphic Medicine” will be sponsored by the NNLM/NER. This will be an introduction to the field with a focus on librarianship and medical education. Register using the QR code above!

Beginning in June 2017, UMMS students can take an FCE on Graphic Medicine and Health Literacy!

Research & Outreach Initiatives

Matthew Noe, with Len Levin and Suzana Makowski, were awarded a Mapping the Landscape grant to conduct a scoping review of the literature on Graphic Medicine to explore current uses and potential impacts of comics in medicine.

With a focus on health literacy, the NNLM/NER has designated Graphic Medicine as a special initiative. Through this initiative, Matthew will travel the region to conduct outreach and education on the uses of comics in medicine, with a focus on educating medical librarians.

A collection of resource lists are in-progress to aid in discovery of Graphic Medicine titles and research.

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