

Julia Berg Memorial Lectures

Through our work with the [University of Minnesota Medical School Department of Pediatrics](#), we have established two programs in Julia's memory. With each program we hope that doctors in training and in practice will become ever-more conscious of the risks of medical error and sensitive to the unique challenges of adolescent medicine.

The Julia Berg Memorial Lecture is funded through the Julia Berg Memorial Fund for Patient Safety at the University of Minnesota Foundation. The purpose of the Fund is to support the University of Minnesota Department of Pediatrics' Resident Education Program by providing a source of funds for renowned speakers whose specialty is in patient safety with a focus on communication between families and medical staff or hospital systems.

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #1

Dr. Saul Weingart presented the first Julia Berg Pediatric Grand Rounds Lecture to medical students, the medical community and the public, on April 1, 2009. The title of his lecture was, "Learning from patients and families about patient safety." Dr. Weingart, BS, MD, MPP, PhD, is Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; and VP for Patient Safety, Center for Patient Safety, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #2

Dr Michael S. Wolf, Associate Division Chief-Research in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, presented his lecture, "Promoting Safe and Appropriate Medication Use: A Health Literacy Perspective."

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #3

Paul Sharek, MD, MPH, FAAP, is from the Stanford School of Medicine, and is Chief Clinical Patient Safety Officer at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. His lecture topic was, "Moving Closer to High Reliability: Partnering with Parents to Improve Patient Safety."

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #4

Jim Conway is an Adjunct Lecturer at the Harvard School of Public Health, Principal of the Governance & Leadership Group of Pascal Metrics, and a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). A standing room only audience heard the fourth Julia Berg Memorial Lecture, which was a stark, compelling and compassionate message about the state of patient safety. Mr. Conway has written about Julia and includes her story in his lectures nationally. Here is a link to the archival video tape of his Grand Rounds lecture on October 24, 2012: [Jim Conway's Lecture](#)

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #5

Phil Kibort, MD, MBA, is Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. He is also Adjunct Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota. Dr. Kibort was Chief Medical Officer at Minneapolis Children's Hospital when Julia died, and his deeply personal reflections were captured in his lecture, "Diagnostic Errors: The Next Frontier in Patient Safety." We continue to appreciate Dr. Kibort's efforts on patient

safety and for his continuing to tell Julia's story. His comments are available here: [Phil Kibort's Lecture](#)

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #6

Atul Gawande, MD, is a surgeon, writer, public health researcher and professor at the Harvard Medical School, with many additional credentials. He is the author of four best sellers, including three on patient safety and medical error: *Complications*, *Better*, and *The Checklist Manifesto*. Dr. Gawande appeared in conversation with Dr. John Andrews of the U of M, who has been our primary contact and coordinator for all of the Julia Berg Lectures. Unfortunately there is no recording of this event. We are grateful and honored to present Dr. Gawande to an audience of nearly 400 medical residents and U of M Medical School students.

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #7

Mark Graber, MD, is a Senior Fellow at RTI International and Professor Emeritus of Medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Graber has been a pioneer in efforts to address diagnostic errors in medicine, and his research in this area has been supported by the National Patient Safety Foundation and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. In 2008 he convened and chaired the first Diagnostic Error in Medicine conference. In 2011 he founded the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine. He knows well the circumstances of Julia's death, and we were honored to have this national leader present the Julia Berg Lecture: [Mark Graber's Lecture](#)

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #8

Arabella Simpkin, MD, MMSc, is the Associate Director of the Center for Educational Innovation and Scholarship, Department of Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Simpkin is a graduate of the University of Oxford where she studied medicine. She trained in adult medicine and pediatrics in the UK, and holds Membership to the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Dr. Simpkin has a Master of Medical Sciences in Medical Education from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Simpkin is committed to designing and researching innovative approaches to the teaching of medicine particularly in diagnostic reasoning, medical decision-making, resilience, and embracing uncertainty. This focus of her research and publications made her an outstanding candidate for the Julia Berg Lecture: [Arabella Simpkin's Lecture](#)

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #9

Julianne Morath, RN, MS, serves as President and CEO of the Hospital Quality Institute (HQI), a collaboration of the California Hospital Association and three Regional Associations. She is a founding and current member of the NPSF Lucian Leape Institute. Author of two books, *The Quality Advantage* and *To Do No Harm*, Morath has published widely on topics of quality, patient safety, leadership and patient/family engagement. She is a frequent speaker and consultant within the United States and internationally, including Canada, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Morath's work in patient safety has been featured on the cover of *U.S. News & World Report* and has been the focus of two Harvard Business School case studies in leadership. Morath served as COO of Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota and was in this position at the time of Julia's death. Her comments can be viewed here: [Julianne Morath Lecture](#)

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #10

Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH, serves as Chief, Health Policy, Quality & Informatics Program, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness & Safety, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine. His presentation, "State of Improving Diagnosis 2021: Four Areas of Progress and Optimism," drew upon his deep experience in education, research and policy to provide a current overview of efforts to improve diagnostic safety. His research has informed several national and international patient safety initiatives and policy reports, including those by the National Academies, CDC, National Quality Forum, and the WHO.

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #11

Laura Zwaan, PhD, Assistant Professor, Institute of Medical Education Research, Rotterdam Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Dr. Zwaan's presentation, "Improving diagnosis in medicine: Learning from errors and best practices," featured a discussion of "Safety II," which focuses on understanding why most healthcare delivery processes are successful and how they are performed correctly in high-performing units rather than why they fail. Dr. Zwaan is a cognitive psychologist and epidemiologist who dedicates her career to understanding and improving the diagnostic process. She initiated the European Diagnostic Error in Medicine conferences and was the main organizer and chair of the 1st European conference in Rotterdam in 2016 and was most recently chair of the 2023 conference in Utrecht, in the Netherlands. Dr. Zwaan is an active member of the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine (SIDM). [Laura Zwaan's Lecture](#)

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #12

Adam Rodman, MD, MPH, and Instructor in Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, presented the timely "Artificial Intelligence as Second Opinion: The future (and present) promise of large language models for clinical reasoning." General Medicine joined Pediatrics for this Grand Rounds presentation, which featured an up-to-date assessment of the role of large language models in diagnosis. Dr. Rodman presented a real, anonymized case to Dr. Andrew Olson for his analysis, followed by the results from Chat GPT-4, given the same data in the same sequence. [Adam Rodman Lecture](#)

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #13

Gordon Schiff, MD, Associate Director of Brigham and Women's Center for Patient Safety Research and Practice, Quality and Safety Director for the Harvard Medical School (HMS) Center for Primary Care, and Associate Professor of Medicine at HMS. He has published more than 250 articles and chapters in the areas of medication and diagnosis safety and was a reviewer and contributor to the 2015 National Academy of Medicine (IOM) Report Improving Diagnosis in Health Care. He is recipient of the 2019 Mark Graber Diagnosis Safety Award, and the 2020 John Eisenberg Award by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and Joint Commission. Dr. Schiff is very familiar with Julia's case, and presented a personal reflection on the diagnostic pitfalls that affected her care. He discussed how we can improve situational awareness and do a better job of harnessing uncertainty to improve diagnostic safety. [Gordon Schiff Lecture](#)

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #14

Cornelius James, MD, FACP, University of Michigan Medical School, presented his lecture: "Artificial Intelligence Meets Medical Education: Interventions to Improve Diagnosis." Dr. James is the Director of the UMMS Evidence-Based Medicine Curricular Thread, which equips students with essential skills for lifelong learning and evidence-based clinical practice. His team has developed innovative curricula to prepare clinicians for the transformative impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the health system. His

content rich presentation traced the evolution of AI and its applications in medicine, and previewed its potential and pitfalls in clinical practice. His work is focused on teaching competencies to prepare clinicians to integrate AI along with their clinical expertise to best serve patients. [Cornelius James Lecture](#)

Julia Berg Memorial Lecture #15

Alexandra Sifferlin is currently deputy editor of the Science desk at The New York Times. Previously, she was the health and science editor for The New York Times opinion desk, the deputy editor of *Elemental* and a staff writer at Time Magazine. Her newly published book, *The Elusive Body: Patients, Doctors, and the Diagnosis Crisis*, illuminates the diagnostic journey, its challenges and its revelations. Her book examines from multiple perspectives why diagnoses matter and how they have the power to transform lives, the medical system, and even society, one case at a time.

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