



KERN NATIONAL NETWORK
FOR FLOURISHING IN MEDICINE
Character. Caring. Practical Wisdom.

KNN Connection | October 12, 2023



Reflecting on the 2023 KNN Conference

Last month, over 200 leaders and learners in medicine assembled in Milwaukee for the KNN's second annual national conference, **"Together We Flourish: Collectively Transforming Medicine."** We extend our gratitude to all who made the event possible, including the Kern Family Foundation, conference planning committee and presenters, as well as members of the movement, participants and partners like conference sponsor ScholarRx.

Throughout the three-day convening, sessions and workshops focused on the KNN framework elements of character, caring, practical wisdom and flourishing. The word **FLOURISH** was displayed in big, illuminated letters to serve as a reminder of our shared mission and how the transformational work that is shifting the culture of medicine can only be achieved through collective effort.



The opening session "Flourishing Across the Physician's Journey" featured a dean, Dr. Lee Jones, from Georgetown University School of Medicine; a medical educator, Dr. Andrea Leep Hunderfund of Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science; and an MD/JD candidate, Desireé Brionne Dillard, MBA, from Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine.



The panel, moderated by KNN National Director of Strategy and Partnerships Kimara Ellefson, MBA, allowed each presenter to give perspective to what flourishing means at each stage of the physician's journey, key contributors to flourishing and the relationship between adversity and flourishing.

Using the [KNN framework](#) as inspiration, local artist Posy Knight created a tree-themed art installation for participants to interact with and answer the question, “What does flourishing TOGETHER look like or mean to you?”

Participant answers were written on green and yellow paper leaves and later attached to the tree. Answers varied but included: caring; collaboration; community; building character through integrity; equitable access to resources; empathy; trust; recognizing those in healthcare [who] often aren't; smile; love; flourish and more.



Another Milwaukee creative, Mikey Murry, opened Thursday's programming by performing a spoken word piece that captured the power of being “amongst a crowd of those who share our vision of a world that does not simply spin but moves toward something bigger.”



The third day of the conference featured a closing session by family medicine physician and McDonald Agape Fellow Dr. Brewer Eberly. He skillfully wove together art (W. Blair Bruce's “The Smiths”) and poetry (Raymond Carver's “What the Doctor Said”) to lead a guided reflection on thresholds, relationships and courageous actions. From there, participants enjoyed additional networking opportunities, and a chance to travel to the Milwaukee Art Museum for roundtable discussions or a narrative medicine experience.

Overall, the KNN conference allowed for a strengthening of existing relationships and forming of new connections—all based on the shared goal of advancing flourishing among the present and future field of medicine. Participant feedback recognized the special energy and strength that comes from intentionally centering community and our shared humanity while disseminating knowledge and practices.

In case you missed the event or want to review presentations, you can access conference materials in the KNN online community conference library—materials will continue to be added as received. Please note, you will need to register for **and** log in to the online community to access the materials.

As we look forward to expanding the KNN network throughout our next phase of work, we invite each of you to continue the journey with us and [join the movement](#) toward flourishing in medicine.

With gratitude,

The KNN Team



**Kern National Network for
Flourishing in Medicine**

[View Conference Materials](#)

KNN AT LEARN SERVE LEAD 2023

Toward Flourishing in Medicine: Reception Hosted by the KNN

If you're attending [AAMC Learn Serve Lead](#) this year, we invite you to join a reception for KNN members of the movement and all those interested in learning more about advancing flourishing in medicine.

Sunday, November 5, 2023

7:30 - 9 pm PT

Sheraton Grand Seattle

Issaquah Room



Join us for refreshments, appetizers and desserts, and find out about the KNN's transformational work so far and future directions. **Spread the word — bring your colleagues!** Throughout Learn Serve Lead, [visit the KNN at booth 503](#).

UPDATES, EVENTS & RESOURCES

Updates

Join the KNN team!

The KNN program office is seeking to add the following position to the team:

- [Program Coordinator III - Partnership Development & Relations](#)

We welcome applications through the link provided above.

Have an update to share? Please [email us](#).

Upcoming Events

October 23, 5-6:15 pm CT | KNN Foundations for Flourishing: Caring

The KNN's *Foundations for Flourishing* is a four-part virtual series aiming to increase awareness and understanding of the four fundamental KNN framework elements: character, caring, practical wisdom and flourishing. Join us for the second session on caring with Joan C. Tronto, PhD, Professor Emerita of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and Sonia Chimienti, MD, Dean of Educational Affairs of Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. Following the event, there will be an exclusive 30-minute Q&A for [members of the movement](#).

[REGISTER HERE >](#)

November 3-7, Seattle, WA | Learn Serve Lead 2023: The AAMC Annual Meeting

Are you attending AAMC Learn Serve Lead in Seattle? Visit the KNN at booth 503 and join our reception on November 5.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER >](#)

February 29 - March 2, 2024, Atlanta, GA | 2024 Gold Humanism Summit: The Person in Front of You

The Gold Foundation invites all supporters of humanism in healthcare to the 2024 Gold Humanism Summit in Atlanta. The convening aims to explore best practices and strategies to fuel

change and inspire action to heal the heart of healthcare.
[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER >](#)

Resources

- [Becoming: Humanities-Based Enrichment for Character Development and Professional Identity Formation \(Video\)](#) | The KNN Student Network has kicked off the 2023-2024 *Becoming* series. Interested in learning more? Watch this webinar on how the KNN aims to build the professional identity of learners through the series, which encourages conversation and community for medical students.
- [The Role of Music in Medicine \(Audio\)](#) | Check out this podcast episode of *Well, Well, Well..* with Medical College of Wisconsin's Dr. Jennifer Mackinnon on integrating personal interests into medicine and how she implemented remote music sessions for ICU patients.
- [Take 5: Patient Bias: How to Support the Learner \(Video\)](#) | Watch Anjali Bhagra, MD, and Syed Ahsan Rizvi, MD, of Mayo Clinic provide 5 strategies educators can use to maintain a positive learning environment for learners encountering patient bias in clinical settings.



About the Kern National Network

The **Kern National Network for Flourishing in Medicine (KNN)** is a national movement focused on integrating four foundational elements within the profession of medicine: character, caring, practical wisdom and flourishing. We advance this work by connecting and convening stakeholders across the health ecosystem, catalyzing transformative initiatives, and influencing policy and systems change.

Kern National Network | knn@mcw.edu | [website](#)



Kern National Network for Flourishing in Medicine | c/o Medical College of Wisconsin 8701 Watertown Plank Road | Milwaukee, WI 53123 US

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