

The Power of Words: Medicine in Poetry
Dr. Michael Salcman

Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
12 July 2010
Washington, D.C.

Physician writers and poets:

Yehuda Halevi
Rabelais
Thomas Nashe
Thomas Campion
Henry Vaughan
Friedrich Schiller
Keats (Apprentice Surgeon/ Apothecary)
Thomas Lovell Bedoes
Oliver Wendell Holmes
Arthur Conan Doyle (ophthalmologist)
Chekhov (physician in TB sanitarium)
Somerset Maugham
Gottfried Benn
William Carlos Williams (pediatrician, GP)
Miroslav Holub (immunologist)
Dannie Abse (pulmonologist)
John Stone (cardiologist)
Marc Strauss (oncologist)
Michael Salcman (neurosurgeon)
Rafael Campo (internist, HIV)

Poets Writing about medicine and illness:

Homer
Shakespeare
John Donne
Milton
Lady Mary Mortley Montagu
Samuel Johnson
Lord Byron
Robert Browning
Emily Dickinson
Walt Whitman
Baudelaire
Edgar Lee Masters
Auden
Ogden Nash
Robert Lowell
John Berryman
Elizabeth Bishop
Sylvia Plath
Anne Sexton
Philip Larkin
Yehuda Amichai
Frederick Seidel
Thom Gunn
Jane Kenyon
Donald Hall
Daniel Hoffman
Marilyn Hacker
Stanley Plumly
Grace Schulman
Eavan Boland
David Bergman
Rachel Hadas
Terese Svoboda
Edward Hirsch
Mark Doty
Thomas Lux

Partial list from *POETRY IN MEDICINE, A CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY ANTHOLOGY* edited by MICHAEL SALCMAN, M.D., in preparation, 2010