



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Center
in Delhi



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO MEDICINE

Bucksbaum Institute
for Clinical Excellence

Disarming Dialogues:

Reviving Humanities in Medical Education (RHiME) 2016 Workshop

2nd – 4th November 2016

FACULTY BIOS

Ranjana Srivastava

Dr. Ranjana Srivastava is a medical oncologist, educator and award-winning writer, and a columnist for The Guardian newspaper. After an upbringing in the United States, where she completed high school in Pittsburgh, she graduated from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia with first-class honours. In 2004, Ranjana was awarded a Fulbright Award and was Australia's highest-ranked recipient that year. She used it to complete an ethics fellowship at the MacLean Centre at the University of Chicago. She became a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 2005 and now practices in the public hospital system in Melbourne. She is on the advisory committee to the Health Commissioner and plays an active role in shaping doctor-patient communication skills training.

Ranjana has written widely on the subject of medicine and humanity and ethics. She publishes frequently in the New England Journal of Medicine (last piece On the Death of a Colleague appeared 15th January, 2015) and has also appeared in The Lancet, JAMA, Annals of Internal Medicine, Time Magazine and several other publications including Australia's Best Science Writing. She has won the Cancer Council Victoria award for outstanding writing as well as the Gus Nossal Prize for Global Health writing.

Her first book, "Tell Me The Truth: Conversations with my Patients about Life and Death" (Penguin) was shortlisted for a major literary award. Her second book, "Dying for a Chat: The Communication Breakdown Between Doctors and Patients", won the Human Rights Literature Prize. Her third book on navigating a diagnosis of cancer recently came out in Australia and will soon be published in the United States by the University of Chicago Press. Ranjana has previously written for The Age newspaper in Australia and is now a columnist for the Guardian.

Ranjana's interest in explaining and demystifying medicine to the general public has led to a regular media presence in Australia, including on radio and a monthly health segment on ABC television. Her roles as a medical volunteer have included working with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne, with the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta and in post-tsunami Maldives while she was a MacLean Centre fellow. Her contribution to medicine was recently recognised with the Monash University Distinguished Alumni award of 2014.