

VISITING PROFESSOR SERIES

Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

Third Annual Bohigian Lectureship for the History of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

In collaboration with the Bernard Becker Archives and Rare Books Department,
the Center for History Of Medicine presents the 32nd *Historia Medica* Lecture

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ophthalmology Grand Rounds

East Pavilion Auditorium

4:30 – 5:00 pm **Refreshments and Meet the Speaker -
Hallway outside auditorium**

5:00 – 6:00 pm ***Eye Diseases of Famous Artists***

James G. Ravin, MD

Clinical Associate Professor – University of Toledo College of Medicine



For as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by the capability of artists to place pigment on a surface and create something interesting. My early memories of large portraits in the corridors of museums remain vivid. I studied at the Toledo Museum of Art as a child and made copies of some of those overwhelming images. As a teenager I took lessons from an artist named Israel Abramofsky, whose works now hang in museums in this country and in France. In college I was able to complete nearly all the premedical requirements by the end of my junior year. This permitted me to spend nearly all of my senior year concentrating on the history of art, including a thesis on *art nouveau* glass. When time became available in medical school, I worked with Gerald Hodge, the director of the medical illustration program at the University of Michigan Medical Center. We collaborated in writing descriptions of some of these works and published several papers, including articles in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Our focus was the subject matter of the works, rather than the artists who had created them. During my

residency and later, I turned more toward identifying the problems of artists with physical defects and the effects of these problems on their works. Discussion with colleagues in medicine and in art history about these topics led to requests to speak to various classes and organizations.

Co-author of *The Artist's Eyes: Vision and the History of Art*, and *The Eye of the Artist*, with Michael F. Marmor, MD

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Presentations are expected to be based on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine as adequate justification for their indication in the care of patients. All scientific research should conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection and analysis.

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