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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