



UNIVERSITATEA  
DE MEDICINĂ ȘI FARMACIE  
„VICTOR BABEȘ“ DIN TIMIȘOARA

# INTRODUCTION TO NARRATIVE MEDICINE. ILLNESS AND DISCOURSE

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The course *Introduction to Narrative Medicine. Illness and Discourse* aims at observing the way in which writer patients, theatre professionals, contemporary doctors manage to transpose testimonials of their illnesses or of their conditions. The look is patient-centred, and the discourses operate with the “tool kit” of narrative medicine.

By means of non-fictional narratives (diary pages, memoirs, other confessional writings, theatre shows) – written/spoken in the first person – we analyse discourse on illness: how the patients (re)define themselves, how they understand their illness, how they can describe it and how they can live with it. But also, we are examining the identitary marks that are triggered by such new realities. The pages include patients’ perceptions, ideas, expectations. They all form images that can facilitate a better understanding of the patient who exposes himself/herself with honesty, frailty and dignity. The course targets as well some of the components in the set of skills for the 21st century: creativity, cooperation, empathy, active listening, interpretation, transdisciplinary.



#### Topics:

1. Illness as a rupture and as a new reality;
2. Illness – an identitary itinerary;
3. Living with the illness: perception, ideas, conceptions;
4. Defining the illness: medical perspectives as 1st person narratives;
5. The Patient– doctor;
6. The patient and the others – medical narratives;
7. The hospital/the clinic – spaces of reconstruction.

