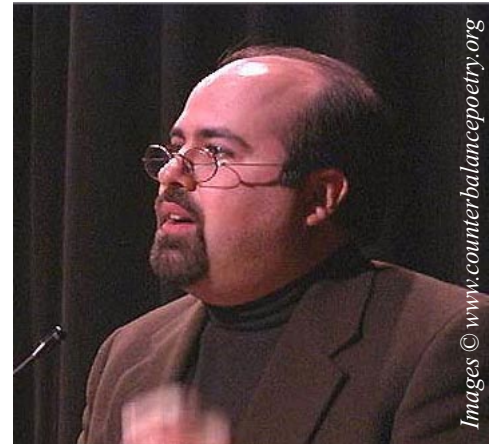
 The Institute for Science & Interdisciplinary Studies and  
the Charles Drew Pre-medical Society of Amherst College present

# Medicine and the Humanities: Healing with Poetry

Lecture and Reading by Physician and Poet  
**Rafael Campo, MD (AC'87)**



**Cole Assembly Room, Converse Hall  
Amherst College**

**7:00 pm Thursday, March 7**

## What the Body Told

Not long ago, I studied medicine.  
It was terrible, what the body told.  
I'd look inside another person's mouth,  
And see the desolation of the world.  
I'd see his genitals and think of sin.

Because my body speaks the stranger's language,  
I've never understood those nods and stares.  
My parents held me in their arms, and still  
I think I've disappointed them; they care  
And stare, they nod, they make their pilgrimage

To somewhere distant in my heart, they cry.  
I look inside their other-person's mouths  
And see the sleek interior of souls.  
It's warm and red in there—like love, with teeth.  
I've studied medicine until I cried

All night. Through certain books, a truth unfolds.  
Anatomy and physiology,  
The tiny sensing organs of the tongue—  
Each nameless cell contributing its needs.  
It was fabulous, what the body told.

—Rafael Campo  




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Since earning his medical degree at Harvard in 1992, Dr. Campo has written four books of poetry: *Landscape With Human Figure* (2002), *Diva* (1999), *What the Body Told* (1996), and *The Other Man Was Me: A Voyage to the New World* (1994). *The Poetry of Healing* (1996) is his collection of prose.

Dr. Campo's award-winning poems, essays and reviews have appeared in many publications. He teaches medicine at Harvard Medical School and is an associate at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Dr. Campo will read his own poetry and reflect on the influence the liberal arts had on his training as a doctor. His talk is free and open to the public.

*ISIS events are smoke- & fragrance-free to ensure accessibility. Thanks for your consideration.*