GETTING READY FOR PATIENT CENTERED MEDICINE  
RECOMMENDED SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Dear Entering Class of 2016,

Welcome to Robert Wood Johnson Medical School! On behalf of the Patient Centered Medicine (PCM) Steering Committee we want to communicate our excitement about getting to work with you in this course. To get in the spirit of doctoring we have developed a summer assignment that must be completed by the first day of class. You must read The Soul of a Doctor, Harvard Medical Students Face Life and Death, edited by Susan Pories, Sachin Jain and Gordon Harper, and one or more of the books listed below. After reading these books you must write a reflection, the first portfolio entry for your Patient Centered Medicine Portfolio. This should be brought to class on the first day of PCM.

Recommended Books:
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebeccal Skloot  
Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese  
Body of Work, by Christine Montross  
Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life by Karen Armstrong  
Better A Surgeon’s Notes on Performance by Atul Gawande  
Kitchen Table Wisdom by Rachel Naomi Remen  
Mountains Beyond Mountains, by Tracy Kidder  
The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, by Ann Fadiman  
Complications, by Atul Gawande  
The Lonely Patient How We Experience Illness by Michael Stein  
Arrowsmith, by Sinclair Lewis  
Checklist Manifesto by Atul Gawande  
Seeing Patients: Unconscious Bias in Health Care by Augustus White  
Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstoy  
The Emperor of all Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee  
The Great Influenza by John Barry  
Crashing Through by Robert Kurson

Prompts for a reflection before you begin medical school:  
• Describe a personal experience with the health care system. How were you/friend/family treated?  
• Describe your feelings in anticipation of seeing patients.  
• (Regarding reading) Reflect on this film or book and its implications.  
• Do you think that this film or book will impact the way you practice medicine?

We look forward to meeting you. Please contact us with any questions.  
Sincerely,  
Dr. Terregino and Dr. Saks