When Breath Becomes Air

By Paul Kalanithi

Wednesdays, March 30, 2016
6:00 p.m.: Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine (Room W104)
Virtual Participation via ZOOM conferencing is welcome.
For a link to participate remotely, please email Lisa.Martin@hofstra.edu.
Snacks and casual dinner will be provided for in-person attendees.

About our current selection:
At the age of thirty-six, just before completing his training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. When Breath Becomes Air chronicles Kalanithi’s transformation from a naïve medical student “possessed,” as he wrote, “by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life” into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality. Paul Kalanithi died in March 2015, while working on this book, yet his words live on as a guide and a gift to us all. “I began to realize that coming face to face with my own mortality, in a sense, had changed nothing and everything,” he wrote. “Seven words from Samuel Beckett began to repeat in my head: ‘I can’t go on. I’ll go on.’” When Breath Becomes Air is an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing death and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from a brilliant writer who became both.

About the Osler Society Book & Film Series
Students, faculty and staff of the Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine and Hofstra University are invited to participate in this Humanities in Medicine program, designed to explore the depth and complexities of human relationships and illness.

Please RSVP to Lisa.Martin@hofstra.edu if you are interested in participating, and indicate whether you will participate in person or virtually.