

# GRAND ROUNDS



Thursday, January 18, 2024

Location: Zoom (please [RSVP](#) for link)

4:30pm- 6:00pm EST

Please RSVP here or to

[bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu](mailto:bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu)

## Remembering the White Rose: How 6 Medical Students Took on Hitler

**Salvatore Mangione, MD**

February 2023 marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the murdering of ‘White Rose’ resisters to Hitler – a clandestine group of idealistic Munich students that between 1942 and 1943 tried to stir-up German rebellion by increasing awareness of Nazi atrocities. Leaders were caught while distributing leaflets, put on show trials, and sent to the guillotine. Yet what is relevant for today’s physicians is that this tiny band of cultured and decent humanists was almost entirely made of *medical students* – but students who had an expansive view of what it means being a doctor. As they wrote in one of their leaflets, “We will not be silent.” As we honor these students’ memory and moral need to act, we should remember that we too have social responsibilities. There are many issues today’s medicine needs the civil courage to be vocal about, such as inequalities of care, gun control and social determinants of disease. Yet, the main existential threat of our age comes not from a murderous tyrant, but from a *warming planet* – a self-inflicted “catastrophe of unimagined magnitude”. With time rapidly fading, and physicians remaining disturbingly silent, “climate action is not a luxury but a must”. Should we then heed the *White Rose* call and speak up? As one of the ‘White Rose’ students told her cellmate just before being executed: “How can we expect righteousness to prevail when there is hardly anyone willing to give himself up individually to a righteous cause?”.



**SALVATORE MANGIONE, MD**, is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the SKMC of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, where he also directs the Humanities and History of Medicine courses. He is a clinician-educator with a long interest in physical diagnosis, medical history, community service and the role of the humanities in medicine. His innovative programs and engaging teaching style have been recognized by multiple teaching awards, and his work has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the BBC, CNN, NPR, and *Forbes*. Dr. Mangione has also been involved in asthma education, creating (and directing for six years) *The AsthmaBUS™*, a red doubledecker he bought in London in 1999, shipped to Philadelphia, and eventually outfitted so to provide asthma education and screening for 15,000 middle-school children. For this he received the 2001 *American Institute of Architects* Award for most innovative exhibit, the 2003 World Asthma Day community service award from Philadelphia, and the 2004 Governors Community Service Award by the Chest Foundation of the *American College of Chest Physicians*. Dr. Mangione has been an invited speaker at many national and international meetings, especially in regard to the use of visual arts for the teaching of observation. He's the author of the book *Secrets in Physical Diagnosis* and the recipient of the 2022 Nicholas E. Davies Memorial Scholar Award of the *American College of Physicians* for Scholarly Activities in the Humanities and History of Medicine.

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