

News Release

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*University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania Health System*

Invitation to Cover

"Why Curse? Why Not?"

*PENN Psychiatry Presents a Panel Discussion Looking at Cursing from a Linguistic,
Sociological, and Psychological Perspective*

(PHILADELPHIA) – What makes one four letter word profane and another docile? The [University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine](#)'s [Department of Psychiatry](#) and [The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia](#) will host "Why Curse? Why Not?" – an interdisciplinary forum aimed at understanding the development, diffusion, and taboo of cursing from a linguistic, sociological, and psychological perspective.

WHERE: University of Pennsylvania
Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall
3417 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

WHEN: February 1, 2007
7 p.m.

WHO: [Roger Abrahams, PhD](#), Hum Rosen Professor in [Folklore and Folklife](#) and Professor of [English](#) Emeritus, [University of Pennsylvania](#)

[Anjan Chatterjee, MD](#), Associate Professor, [Department of Neurology](#) and [Center for Cognitive Neuroscience](#), [University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine](#)

Dr. Chatterjee will present examples of neurological disease to discuss the biologic bases of speech, language, and systems that might contribute to cursing.

[Elio Frattaroli, MD](#), Faculty, [The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia](#)

[Carolyn Marvin, PhD](#), Frances Yates Professor in the [Annenberg School for Communications](#), [University of Pennsylvania](#)

[Robert Blair St. George, PhD](#), Associate Professor of [History](#), [Center for Folklore and Ethnography](#), [University of Pennsylvania](#)

For additional information, contact Sarah Lichter at 215-746-7248 or Kate Olderman at 215-349-8369.

This event is open to the public.

Refreshments will be served.

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***PENN Medicine** is a \$2.9 billion enterprise dedicated to the related missions of medical education, biomedical research, and high-quality patient care. PENN Medicine consists of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine (founded in 1765 as the nation's first medical school) and the University of Pennsylvania Health System.*

Penn's School of Medicine is ranked #2 in the nation for receipt of NIH research funds; and ranked #3 in the nation in U.S. News & World Report's most recent ranking of top research-oriented medical schools. Supporting 1,400 fulltime faculty and 700 students, the School of Medicine is recognized worldwide for its superior education and training of the next generation of physician-scientists and leaders of academic medicine.

The University of Pennsylvania Health System includes three hospitals, all of which have received numerous national patient-care honors [Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania Hospital, the nation's first hospital; and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center]; a faculty practice plan; a primary-care provider network; two multispecialty satellite facilities; and home care and hospice.

This release is available online at

http://www.ups.upenn.edu/news/News_Releases/jan07/discussion-cursing.htm