

FRANK WILSON is the author of *The Hand: How Its Use Shapes the Brain, Language, and Human Culture* and a neurologist whose clinical and research interests for nearly thirty years focused on human hand skill. He was a founder of the Health Program for Performing Artists at the University of California, San Francisco; its medical director from 1996–2000; and Clinical Professor of Neurology at Stanford University School of Medicine from 2001–2004. Dr. Wilson serves on the Board of Trustees of Big Picture Learning (BPL), a national nonprofit organization of inner-city high schools. He has been working with BPL and other organizations to establish a national program for science learning based on unsolved problems in human hand and arm prosthetics. His long clinical experience with artists to create a framework for examining educational practice will be the focus of a new book.

Frank Wilson's talk, *Four fingers and a thumb. What's the big deal?*, will review the evidence that supports his earlier book's thesis that the human hand and brain evolved as a cognitive and behavioral system specialized for the exploration of unmapped physical and experiential territory. The discussion group that follows will offer an opportunity for interested artists (and others) to contribute reflections on their own educational experiences to a discussion of educational reforms currently being mandated in American schools.

2010 Summer Conference: *The Hand*
July 11-15, 2010

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts