Translational Imaging Center Guest Speaker

Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 10 AM
Ray R Irani Hall Conference Room 101

Lord Winston
Professor of Science and Society
Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies
Imperial College London

“The Two Cultures: The Puzzle of Las Meninas. Hidden disease in Renaissance painting.”

So many famous paintings from Western Europe have mysterious aspects frequently ignored by art critics. How could what is apparently a 47 year old man with a thick beard give birth to the child that he/she is seen here breastfeeding? Did Michelangelo really suffer from thyroid disease? Did Goya die from syphilis like so many other earlier artists, or was his a case of mercury or merely lead poisoning? Here we uncover attitudes to genetic conditions such as Down’s syndrome and osteomalacia, solve a problem depicted in one of most puzzling paintings of the seventeenth century, las Meninas, unravel Dürer's missed diagnosis and the cause of his death, and re-evaluate a classical painting of a famous suicide, which a modern public prosecutor would instantly regard as premeditated murder.

Hosts: Carol Readhead/Provost Professor Scott Fraser
Tel: 213-740-2411 http://bioimaging.usc.edu/events.html#