This talk characterises and critiques the textual mechanisms through which the genre of the contemporary medical case report constructs the figures and voices of patients. In a corpus of post-1945 medical case reports Hurwitz delineates the possibilities these accounts offer for representing the patient. Hurwitz will show how case reports portray patient subjectivities and discuss the means by which opportunities are missed for hearing empowered, autonomous patients, by the use of techniques that textually silence and diminish patients’ roles in the formulation, dissemination and ownership of case-based medical knowledge.