



# BUILDING/ SUSTAINING A SCHOOL OF MEDICINE BASED PROGRAM IN MEDICAL HUMANITIES: JOHANNA SHAPIRO, PH.D. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Discover  
Teach  
Heal

## INTRODUCTION: What is The Program in Medical Humanities & Arts At UC Irvine School of Medicine (PMHA)

**HUMBLE BEGINNINGS:** One small elective class  
**Current:** Required or elective curriculum all four years of medical school  
**Program goals:** Show medical students how literature and the arts can help them  
 • Better understand and empathize with their patients' experiences  
 • Craft more meaningful and rewarding patient-doctor relationships  
 • Treat their patients more humanely and effectively  
 • Remain invigorated and inspired by their profession

## GETTING STARTED: The Teachers

- Enthusiasm --**
- One class, lecture or course component you really want to teach
  - A few students who are willing to take it!
- Vision --**
- Think big, even grandiose (4 yr curriculum)
  - Participation of key residency programs
  - Research and scholarship
- Support --**
- Office of Educational Affairs
  - Dean's Office (ideal)
  - Grant Funding
  - Physician faculty involvement in teaching, scholarship
  - Student interest/curiosity
  - Professional (i.e.) community resources (likeminded schools)



## CURRICULUM - Required-course components and activities

- Required:**
- Large group lectures/exercises in first and second years' Clinical Foundations (Patient-Doctor) courses (5 hr total)**
  - Reflection seminar -** Sharing clinical insights and concerns using literary and artistic media. **Third year Pediatrics clerkship, 15-20 students (2 hr)**
  - Telling patient stories -** Focuses on telling stories about experiences. **Third year Medicine clerkship, 4 students (1 hr)**
  - Medical Readers Theater -** Students and volunteer services perform and discuss genetically-themed skits. **Third year Family Medicine clerkship, 8 students (2 hr each)**
  - Cross-cultural narratives of student-patient encounters. Third year Family Medicine clerkship, 8 students (2 hr each)**
- Elective:**
- Literature and Medicine -** Reading and discussion of literature and poetry written by physicians and patients. **First year elective, 10 hr, 10 students**
  - Anatomy of Anatomy - "Dissection" of the emotional impact of the anatomy course through art and literature, and its implications for patient care. First year elective, 10 hr, 15 students**
  - Medicine and the Arts -** Local poets, musicians, artists with various medical conditions, and local physicians who work in various art forms discuss the relationship of art, illness, and wellbeing. **Second year elective 10 hr, 10 students**
  - Art of Doctoring -** Uses didactic presentations, self-reflective practices, role-playing, readings, groupwork, etc., personal-creative projects, and case-based problem-solving discussion to reinforce the physician-patient relationship, expand students' communication skills, and provide strategies to promote compassion and empathy in cross-physician values. **Fourth year elective, 40 hr/20 students**

## RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

**Medical Student Independent Humanities Research (Examples)**  
**Medical Reader Theater: An Innovative Method for Educating Medical Students about Psychological Aspects of Aging and Dementia** (Shen-Chia, 2010)  
**Gay's Anatomy: Dissecting the Popular Medical Drama** (Lisa Patel, 2007)  
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**A Doctor's Diary: A Creative Story Approach to Death and Dying** (Gail Ryan, 2006)  
**Clinical Distance vs. Emotional Involvement: A Closer Look at the Oncologist's Role in Patient Care** (July Novatch, 2005)

**Undergraduate Student Independent Humanities Research (Examples)**  
**Translating Compassion and Empathy through Patient Narratives** (Douglas Cheney, 2011)  
**Identity Formation 101: A Creative Identity Intervention Program for Refugee Ophiophylla Doctors** (2007)  
**Analysis of Medical Students' Anatomy Creative Projects** (Vincent Nguyen, 2007)

*Displaying faculty research and a scholarship on integration of humanities and arts in medical education*

**Conferences and Presentations**  
**Health Study (2011)** - Bayview Medical, a local clinic teach and where pediatric and emergency, discussed how his experience with health and such career has informed his work.  
**The Anatomy of Art (2010)** - Carol Goldberg, a well-known local artist whose work explores life and death through historical imagery, discussed how a life-threatening cancer which he had advanced helped her painting and drawing.

**Medical Student Photographic Art Installation, UC Irvine Medical Center (2009)** - A permanent exhibit of medical student photographs was installed in the UC Irvine Medical Center, with the intention of lifting the spirits and inspiring both patients and staff.

**Training The Medical Care Team Of The Arts In Medical Education (one day conference) (2005)**

**Deep Canyon: One Woman's Experience with Ovarian Cancer (2002)** - A solo performance exploring the journey of a young wife, mother, and cancer warrior who receives the unexpected and terrifying diagnosis of cancer.

**Anatomy Of Anatomy: In Science and Words (2010)** - A distinguished photographer, Meryl Levin displayed her work and shared her experience documenting the year-long anatomy course at Cornell University School of Medicine.

**Living in the Bones Room (2011)** - In a program of song and song, hosted by the New York Times, People Magazine and Entertainment Weekly, Steve Schindler presents a positive and uplifting profile of our life with HIV.

**Health Medical Education Symposium (2001)** - The Role of Medical Humanities in Medical Education

**STUDENT RECOGNITION**  
**Graduation with Distinction in Art and Humanities**

- 1-2 graduating 4<sup>th</sup> year students eligible for this distinction (similar to Graduation with Distinction in Research or Service)
- Production of a significant collection of original creative accomplishments in the literary, visual, or performing arts with a connection to medicine
- Body of work is reviewed by a committee of physicians and faculty with interest in the student's chosen medium

**Office of Medical Education Award in Medical Humanities/Arts**  
 Established to honor an outstanding graduating medical who, over the course of his or her medical education, has created a body of original work in other literature or the arts that attempts to integrate the art and science of medicine.

## ENCOURAGEMENT OF CREATIVITY

**Plexus, Journal of Arts and Humanities:** Medical students, residents, faculty, and staff contribute original artwork, poetry, and music.

**Annual Talent Show -** students perform skits, perform medical competitions and dramas, and read poetry, often related to their medical school experiences.

## CONCLUSION

**Starting a Program in Medical Humanities in a college of medicine is challenging but rewarding**

- Initiatives should include:
  - Curriculum development and implementation
  - Research
  - Original creative work
  - Conferences and site-based presentations
  - Personal recognition of student academic, research, and creative efforts

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