

INTRODUCTION TO INAUGURAL OPEN=HOUSE FOR UCI MEDICAL HUMANITIES INITIATIVE

- Funded by UC Office of the President 2014-2018
- Collaboration of Schools of Medicine, Arts, and Humanities

In his 1934 pageant play *The Rock*, TS Eliot asked, “Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?”

The research mission of the MH Initiative seeks to respond responsibly and creatively to these questions, and to promote scholarly inquiry that pursues both knowledge and wisdom. A commitment of the Initiative is to bring together disparate research traditions and ways of knowing: traditional academic scholarship; basic science investigation; professional identity formation and education; and the conservatory approach emphasizing performance and artistic creation. We believe that by encouraging collaborative dialogue among these various perspectives, we will stimulate scholarly endeavors in the medical humanities that produce outcomes greater than the sum of their parts.

We are fortunate at UCI to have an impressive collection of researchers, scholars and creative professionals who are already engaged in groundbreaking and innovative activity that contributes to medical humanities. The goal of the Initiative's research workgroup is to create community among these scholars, facilitate connections, and support their work. Toward this end, the workgroup will organize a twice-quarterly works-in-progress series that will present preliminary research and scholarly projects in an informal, inquiry-based atmosphere. Our first presenter will be Lyle Massey, a professor of art history whose work addresses the intersection of art and science.

In addition, the Initiative will present a distinguished lecture twice a year, showcasing national and international leaders in medical humanities. This year's first lecture, Dec 4, will be presented by Dr. Keith Wailoo, a professor of history at Princeton University, who will examine the richly interdisciplinary topic of pain. The Initiative will also organize smaller research seminars, bringing prominent scholars to campus to share cutting-edge research and innovative scholarly directions that intersect with health and illness, suffering and healing.

Finally, we will fund one pilot research project per year. This year, the selected project is led by Kristen Monroe who directs the Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality at UCI. Her work will investigate the effects of an empathy inducing curricular intervention on learners.

The third prong of the MH Initiative is COMMUNITY OUTREACH. Community engagement activities raise awareness about health and illness, life and death, disease and wellbeing while bringing the community to campus or the demonstrating the relevance of our scholarship to the lives of Orange County residents. Community outreach, led by its own work group, will develop opportunities to collaborate and partner with community organizations, such as schools, libraries, and museums. Sample projects might involve

classroom activities, public exhibits and performances, and community presentations relevant to civic interests and needs.

Please consider signing up for one or more of the workgroups. We need your involvement and it's a great way of having your voice heard.