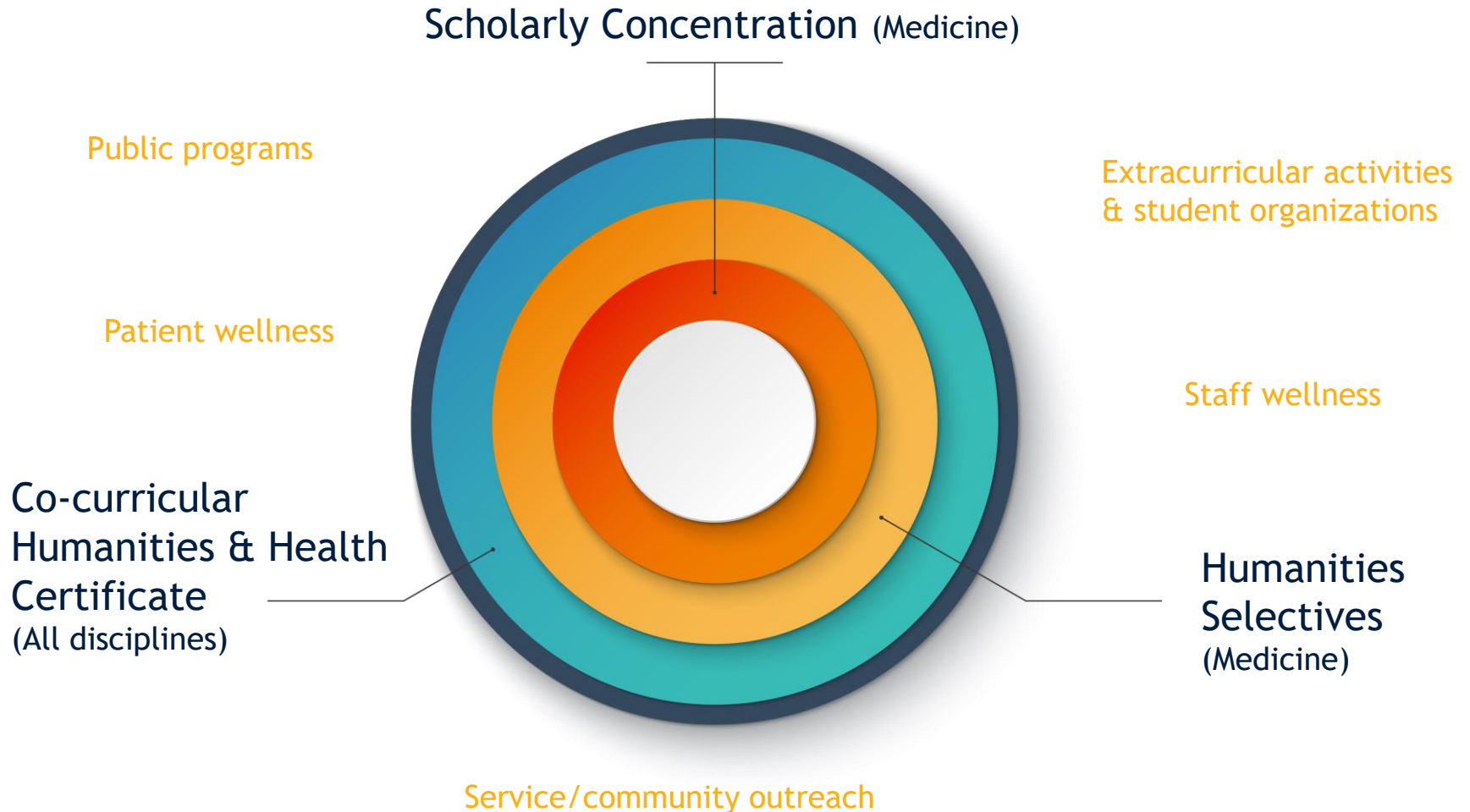


Creating a Humanities Research Track for Medical Students

Megan Voeller, Director, JeffMD Humanities Thread
Co-Director, Scholarly Inquiry-Humanities

Medical & Health Humanities at Jefferson





JeffMD Humanities Selectives

Required: Complete two in Years 1-2 of Medical School

Above: Visualizing Anatomy, co-taught by anatomy faculty and a visual artist

JeffMD Humanities Selectives

- The Empathy Project with Lantern Theater Company
- The Art of Observation at PAFA
- Creative Writing: Fiction & Creative Writing: Poetry
- The Language of Music: Improvisation in Sound
- Medical Cineforum
- History of Medicine
- Mindfulness & Compassion for Self & Other
- Cultural Humility & Cultural Competency





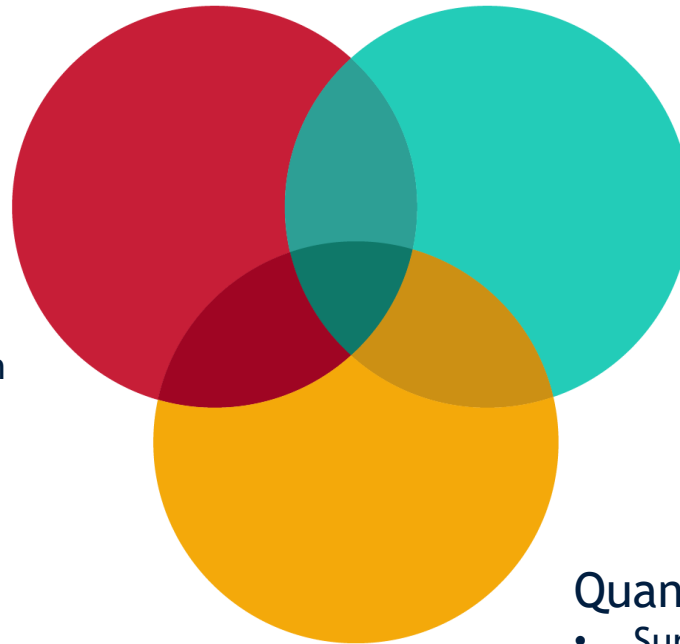
Scholarly Inquiry - Humanities

Required: Choose a four-year research track (Humanities, Public Health, Med Ed, etc.)
Year 1-2 research project + Year 4 capstone project

Medical Humanities as Research

Creative Practice

- Visual arts
 - Photography, drawing & painting
- Performing arts
 - Theater, music
- Creative writing
 - Poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction



Qualitative Methods

- Interviews
- Photo Elicitation
- Content analysis

Quantitative Methods

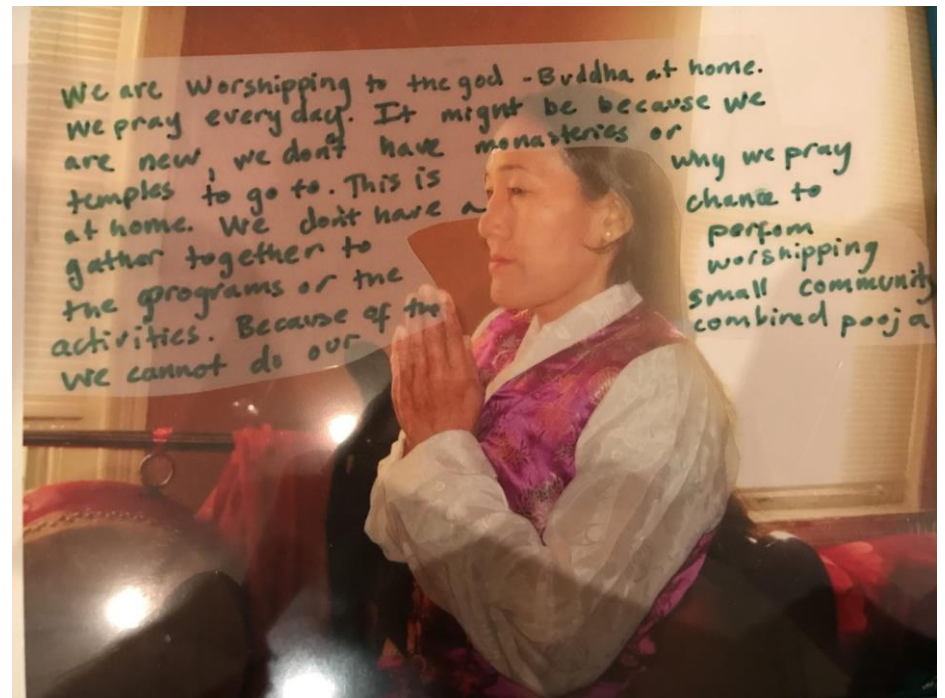
- Surveys
- Psychometrics

Student Research Topics

- Theater of Witness: The Patient Experience of Dementia Told through Testimonial Performance
- Examining Medical Student Maintenance of Personal Identity through Film
- Utilizing Dance Therapy to Alleviate Symptoms of Chemotherapy in Geriatric Patients
- The Healing Power of Live Music
- Impact of Visual Art on the Patient Experience
- Narratives of Women Recovering from Opioid Dependency and of their Healthcare Providers
- Burnt: A Work of Fiction Exploring the Psychological and Social Complexity of Working in Medicine

From Here to There: Picture Stories of Refugee Women's Lives - Content Analysis (C. Christianson, Class of 2020)

- Student (C.C.) led content analysis of photo elicitation project with refugee women in South Philadelphia
- Photo project undertaken by Mural Arts Philadelphia's Southeast by Southeast cultural hub/storefront
- 15 refugee women participants made 100+ photos
- Institution-affiliated team identified five themes in images, e.g., cultural identity



Medical Humanities as Research Track

Challenges

- Defining humanities in medical context
 - “Relevance” expectation
- Legitimizing non-quantitative methods
- Identifying appropriate deliverables and defending their acceptance
- Equivalence between tracks
 - “I’m writing poetry, do I need to complete CITI training?”
- Skill level required for research
- Advising capacity
- Curriculum hours
- Academic goals in tension with benefits of humanities experience



Medical Humanities as Research Track

Benefits for Students

- Restores part of “cut off” self
- Ambiguity of “medical humanities research” fertile ground for exploration
- Respite from alienating, anonymizing academic experience
- Reconnect with reasons for pursuing medicine
- Transform personal passions into concrete project
- Cohort solidarity/support
- **Agency** to realize something under their control