The Medical Humanities Initiative is focused on understanding the human dimensions of health, healing, and well-being through an unprecedented collaboration among the schools of Arts, Humanities, and Medicine at the University of California, Irvine (UCI).

"In advancing a holistic framework of health, healing, and well-being, the medical humanities initiative seeks to promote a model of health care that is patient-centered, culturally sensitive, and responsive to community needs."

Professor Douglas Haynes
Initiative Director

The Medical Humanities Initiative recently co-sponsored a public debate on physician assisted suicide that drew a crowd of more than 400 community and university members. Pictured above from left to right include: Douglas Haynes (History), Aaron Kheriaty (Psychiatry & Human Behavior), Erwin Chemerinsky (Law School Dean & Professor of Law), and Adrian Preda, MD (UCI Healthcare).

Medical Humanities Initiative Goals
The UCI Medical Humanities Initiative will support faculty research projects in the three schools; harness existing curricular content; develop new course content towards a Medical Humanities minor/major and coursework for graduate and medical students; and promote scholarly and public conversations about health, healing, and well-being.

Programs
Each quarter, the Medical Humanities Initiative funds programs to support the goals of the Initiative. Programs include:

- Call for Faculty Funding for Workshop and Conferences (Fall)
- Call for Faculty Funding for Research, Course Development, and Community Engagement Programming (Winter)
- Call for Student Best Essay Prize (Spring)

Fall 2015 Events
Life and Death: Exploring Contemporary Consequences
- Public Debate on Physician Assisted Suicide
- Tobis Lecture on End-of-Life Care
- Stem Cell Symposium

Cure, Care and Corruption Series
- Series of six plays presented by the Drama Department

Questions?
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Asian American Studies

Medical Humanities Work-Group Chairs

Research
Lisa Naugle, Arts-Dance

Teaching and Learning
Sven Bernecker, Humanities-Philosophy

Community Engagement
Richard Kelly, Anesthesiology-Medicine

Academic Initiatives at UCI

The Medical Humanities Initiative is sponsored by UCI’s Office of the Provost and the Executive Vice Chancellor through the Office of Academic Initiatives.

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