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## SUFIAN RECEIVES NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES GRANT

*“Human Story of Illness” develops a new approach to health humanities education for physicians-in-training*

Chicago, Illinois: University of Illinois-Chicago AHS and COM professor, Sandra Sufian, was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities Initiatives for Hispanic-Serving Institutions program, a mechanism intended to strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities in higher education. The proposal, one of eleven recipients, received a perfect score.

Sufian’s project, *“The Human Story of Illness: Health Humanities Portraits for Physicians in Training,”* establishes a series of faculty development workshops over two years in which a core group of University of Illinois College of Medicine (UI-COM) and affiliated faculty (including Carrie Sandahl, a faculty member from DHD) will develop “health humanities portraits” for use in medical school curricula. Combining patient narratives and scholarship from distinctive, humanities disciplinary perspectives, the project’s innovative approach deliberately distinguishes itself from clinical case development-- with its sole emphasis on symptoms, diseases and diagnoses-- by primarily probing instead the human dimensions of illness, disease and disability. In-so-doing, the project will demonstrate the critical role of the humanities in understanding health and healthcare dilemmas and in training physicians. The project also builds an online repository, enabling health humanities faculty nationwide to contribute their own portraits for collaborative exchange, and ultimately to establish best-practices for portrait development and teaching. Sufian, who is the Principal Investigator, is Associate Professor of Health Humanities and History in the Department of Medical Education at UI-COM and Associate Professor of Disability Studies in the Department of Disability and Human Development of the College of Applied Health Sciences. She is also affiliated faculty in the History Department and in the School of Public Health. Dr. Joanna Michel, who is the Project Associate, is Co-Director of Medical Colloquia Course in the UI-COM, the Associate Director of UI-COM’s Urban Medicine Program in the Department of Medical Education, and affiliated faculty in the School of Public Health.

For NEH announcement, see: [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov)