

2020 IH Grantee Spotlight with:
GINA PRIBAZ VOZENILEK
Grants Program Development Officer at the
OSF HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

PROJECT: *Reflective Writing for Patients and Providers (approved Dec. 2019)*

LOCATION: Peoria, IL

ORGANIZATION:

Founded in 1877, OSF HealthCare's Mission is "to serve persons with the greatest care and love in a community that celebrates the gift of life." OSF provides equal access for all individuals.

PROJECT:

The group that received support from Illinois Humanities is an interprofessional team of humanities enthusiasts who form the "HEArt (Humanities, Ethics, and Art) of Healthcare" and get together on a monthly basis to discuss humanities programming, education, and interventions. HEArt of Healthcare programs include a reflective writing program, writing workshops with cancer survivors and medical students, and presentations. Together with the University of Illinois College of Medicine, OSF HealthCare hosted a March 11 talk for 50 internal medicine faculty on findings from the grantees' study of the impact of bedside reflective writing and the value of humanities in healthcare. All of this is a step toward establishing a formal HEArt of Healthcare center to foster scholarship and infuse health humanities into the clinical setting, forging partnerships with local museums, libraries, and schools to create programs that support wellbeing in the hospital and in the community. However, since the Coronavirus crisis hit, the auditorium where the March talk took place has become the OSF HealthCare Pandemic Digital Response Hub, and a member of the HEArt of Healthcare humanities team is now taking a lead role in a National Organization for Arts in Health creative response to the pandemic.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

 Learn more at www.osfhealthcarefoundation.org



Gina (left), with colleagues Tess Woodring and Elsa Vazquez-Melendez, in an OSF auditorium that now serves as the OSF HealthCare Pandemic Digital Response Hub.



QnA SESSION:

***The QnA session was moderated by Mark Hallett, Program Manager, Grants on March 23, 2020.*

Question: What is the most important thing people should know about your work at OSF Healthcare?

Gina: *Our work is a natural and perhaps inevitable complement to the health humanities we see accelerating in medical education. We want to bridge that knowledge over to the hospital culture. Our approach has been interdisciplinary and interprofessional, involving patients, students, clinicians, and leaders. Intentionally injecting humanities-based activities into the healthcare setting has benefits for all who engage in them. Our bedside writing study, for example, involved medical students and patients, and this simple, low-cost activity was welcomed by both groups as beneficial and feasible. Ultimately, it's about getting creative about making meaningful connections. Humanities, ethics, and art can help us do that.*

Question: Who makes your work possible?

Gina: *Without a doubt, faculty and student support from our partner, the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP), has been crucial. Our HEArt of Healthcare members, from medical students and residents, to doctors and researchers and administrators, volunteer their time to meet, brainstorm, connect and reflect. Notably, the OSF Healthcare Foundation supports my time for this work, and we see opportunity to develop future partnerships with community arts organizations and individual supporters.*

Question: How do you see the arts, culture and humanities as being essential?

Gina: *At OSF we are proud of our efforts in healthcare innovation. The more we lean into technology to advance care, the more we recognize the dangers of depersonalization. One prime example: the electronic medical record has become indispensable for managing patient data, but what does it do to the clinician/patient encounter? HEArt of Healthcare is a complementary initiative that aims to assure the primacy of the human side of healthcare as it evolves. Humanities, ethics, and art are tools to help us give expression to our founding Sisters' Mission, "to serve with the greatest care and love."*

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The growing HEArt of HealthCare, which engages in creative activities but also plans ways to incorporate the humanities, ethics and art into a clinical setting.