



**Canadian Association for Health Humanities**  
**L'Association canadienne des sciences humaines en santé**  
**President's Report**  
**2021 April 16**

The Canadian Association for Health Humanities was founded in 2018 as a Canadian Not-for-profit Corporation through a generous grant from Associated Medical Services. The Association's constitution, approved in revised form at the 2019 AGM, has served us well, allowing us to manage through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. With the enthusiastic and far-sighted support of the Executive, the Advisory Council and the membership, CAHH has increased its engagement with the broader health humanities community in Canada. Our organization has been sought out to lend support to enhance the legitimacy and relevance of our discipline, for example, when colleagues are seeking academic promotion and when artists and healthcare professionals want to collaborate. Internationally, we have increased our profile at sister organizations in the United Kingdom (Association of Medical Humanities) and the United States (Health Humanities Consortium).

Our membership is stable and our finances healthy despite the challenges of the pandemic impact on in-person meetings and having to cancel Creating Space 10 in 2020. We have had several members, including learners, offer to volunteer to work for CAHH. We choose to see this as a sign that our community is behind us!

We recognize that CAHH's existence has made it easier to organize and deliver Creating Space as the conference moves yearly from one medical school to another. CAHH has made it simpler to coordinate between successive planning committees, by having a consistent, robust registration system and by providing templates for activities such as promotion and budgetting. We are also beginning to see how we can harvest new ideas from each consecutive conference to build on our community's resources. The series of podcasts arising from CS11 is a recent example.

This year, we launched a monthly virtual rounds series, called Cross-Pollinations, in collaboration with the League of Canadian Poets that will highlight work featuring clinicians, poets and academics in conversation with each other and with participants from across the country. We continue to support Ars Medica and our collaboration with the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

The CAHH-L mailing list remains active. We encourage you to use it even more to promote your local health humanities activities.

Looking to the future, there are many exciting opportunities on the horizon, such as the following.

Sarah de Leeuw is the primary investigator on a grant proposal that CAHH is helping to coordinate. The proposal is to SSHRC's New Frontiers in Research Fund - Transformation 2020 and entitled H.E.A.L. Medicine: Humanities Education and Anticolonial Learning for the

Transformation of Medical Curriculum and Healthcare Delivery in Canada. The proposal was accepted to proceed to the next step, the “full application” stage. We are awaiting further decisions. Even at this early stage, the project is bringing together many of Canada’s leaders in our discipline.

We are working towards increasing CAHH’s social media presence.

CAHH has several projects underway which we expect will become visible this year, largely through our website. The website is being redesigned to incorporate these materials. These projects are the result of work by members of the Advisory Council with the help of some of our student members.

- A catalogue summarizing health humanities academic resources (significant journals, conferences, associations, scholars, training programs).
- A map of Canadian health humanities programs and activities. We have received updates from most of the programs based in medical schools and Canada’s only undergraduate program. We anticipate annual updates and hope that the map inspires colleagues to point ways to enhance it. We are keen to discover and share health humanities activities based in other faculties of health, arts and humanities.
- A database of Canadian health-related creative writing, based on a website initially developed by Monica Kidd, has been updated. We anticipate, after it has been made available on the website, that interested folks will send in further references.

This is my third annual Report. It is also my final one, as I end my term as President. I would therefore like to take some space to acknowledge and thank those who have helped me. My fellow Executive Officers, Sarah de Leeuw, Ayelet Kuper and Brett Schrewe have been, over these three years, constant sources of wisdom, pulling me out of many dark corners. The usual boiler plate “I could not have done it without them” happens to be true. For the past two years, I’ve had the opportunity to work closely with each of the members of the Advisory Council, Alan Blum, Allison Crawford, Barbara Sibbald, Bernice Fonseca, Ebru Ustundag, Rehana Hirji and Tinu Ruparell. They have taught me so much.

I want to acknowledge my appreciation for the work of the organizing committees of the past three Creating Space conferences with special thanks to Monica Kidd and her team at Memorial for what looks to be a stellar event. I know we all hope that future CS conferences will be in-person events (though I’m sure they will still benefit from our recent experience with virtual meetings). Since next year’s CS is planned for Calgary, I already know we Calgarians have big shoes to fill.

On behalf of the CAHH leadership and members, I would like to thank AMS for their decision to create CAHH and for their ongoing support.

I do not know how the elections at this AGM will unfold. That is in the hands, literally, of the membership. What I do know is that the quality of the nominees that have already stepped forward gives me much hope for our future as an organization.

Thank you for the privilege of having served CAHH.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Rosenal

President