

# LETTER FROM THE STIMULUS TEAM



Top row, left to right: Karyssa Nelson, Darashagam Nahal, Cami Henyan, Dr. Steven Gellman  
Bottom row, left to right : Thao Thu Nguyen, Eman Eltahir Ali, Amal Eltahir Ali

This is the second collection featuring prose, visual arts, and media. Many individuals have contributed to the second edition of the *Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal*: students, faculty, staff, alumni, affiliates, and the surrounding community. The journal is organized by the Mavericks for Medical Humanities organization and supported by UTA's Department of Philosophy as well as the UTA College of Liberal Arts. The medical humanities combines two unique subject matters: the fine arts and the medical sciences. As a whole, the medical humanities explore the ethical, historical, literary, philosophical, and religious dimensions of healthcare. The team of *Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal* is passionate about the medical humanities and believes it to be especially relevant in today's day and age. The medical humanities provides individuals with a special prospect on medicine, human society, and the relationship between the two. The field of medical humanities brings a creative aspect to the field of medicine. The medical humanities takes into consideration not just the physical body of the human but also the brain, body, emotions, mentality, relations, and environments of humans. The mission of *Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal* is to provide a creative outlook for individuals to express themselves in the context of medicine and the humanities. The Stimulus Team hopes to provide creators with as many ways of expressing themselves as possible. We are proud to showcase the talent of the many individuals who have submitted to the journal.

At Stimulus, diversity is of great importance to us. Therefore, we have included submissions from nearly every genre of artistic composition. We hope you enjoy reading this journal as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

When deciding how to order the pieces, we strove to make the journal as readable as possible. We alternated prose with art and photography. Our design team also incorporated background elements and design to enhance the appearance of each page. The design team created a theme that connected the journal to the UTA community and campus. We grouped the UTA community, community creators, and Stimulus staff submissions into different sections to highlight the skill and style of each author demographic. We hoped that the flow of the journal would keep the reader captivated and interested as to what kind of piece will be next. The wonderful variety of style and medium of art creates a journal with multiple perspectives and artistic influences. We chose pieces that we feel highlight the importance of human connection through personal experience and community insight while creating a theme of inclusion and acceptance.

We greatly enjoyed reading the submissions from our peers and community as the submission deadline approached. At the beginning of the submission portal being open, we would go days without getting a submission or only receive a few a day. Within the last 48 hours of the submission deadline, we received 27 submissions! From this experience, we have gained significant leadership skills and have become more connected to our UTA community. Despite setbacks and challenges through the process, we continued to have a shared goal in mind: spreading the virtues of medical humanities and the importance of the journal's message. This has been an enriching experience that has grown our knowledge on the healthcare field as well as the role of medical humanities in real life practice. We have internalized the messages from this journal and will use them in our future in healthcare, as we are all on the healthcare track for our future careers.

Lastly, we would like to thank the UTA faculty and staff who have helped and given support to the establishment of Stimulus: to Digital Publishing Librarian Yumi Ohira and copyeditor Janet Long for their efforts in helping to put the journal together; Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Dr. Dan Cavanagh for his advocacy of this journal and medical humanities at UTA, Dr. Eli Shupe; Caroline Nguyen for creating the Stimulus logo; and President of Mavericks for Medical Humanities Joshua Cupps, as well as the club leadership for collaborating with us and spreading the word about our journal. Finally, a very special thanks to Dr. Steven Gellman, Karyssa Nelson, and Thao Thu Nguyen for continuing to contribute to the journal and guide us on how to honor Stimulus and the UTA community in this year's volume.