

What is JHR?

By Sarah Blanton, PT, DPT, Editor-in-Chief

In 2014, a group of educational leaders passionate about teaching health science students to move beyond the “how” and “what” of being a clinician—and explore more expansive questions regarding the nature of human suffering and healing—created the *Journal of Humanities in Rehabilitation (JHR)*.



Embracing these complex concepts demands tools beyond those of the traditional scientific method. The field of health humanities offers alternative ways of knowing that help us grapple with what it means to be human.

JHR strives to define the intersection of humanities and rehabilitation science. Embracing a novel publishing model, it is a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to cultivating a *dialogue between rehabilitation professionals and the disability community* to explore the impact of illness or disability on each unique individual.

Welcoming contributions from academic scholars as well as from patients and families, *JHR* investigates the deeper meanings of humanism in rehabilitation. The journal is proud to host an international group of award-winning health humanities and rehabilitation scholars serving as [editorial board members](#), [editorial associates](#), and [editorial consultants](#).

JHR STRIVES TO:

Be interdisciplinary. *JHR* is the first publication dedicated to integrating health humanities into rehabilitation sciences and the first rehabilitation journal to collaborate with [international disability scholars](#).

Give students rich digital humanities training. Students are integral to *JHR*'s publication process. Their dedicated work provides them national conference opportunities, the chance to serve as [graduate student ambassadors](#), and the ability to compete for awards that honor contributions to [humanism in rehabilitation](#) and a [nationwide student essay contest](#).

Elevate diverse voices. Unique in health sciences publishing, *JHR* invites patients and families to share their [lived experiences of disability and healing](#). This

collaborative scholarship model invites a deeper discussion about our shared questions of meaning, uncertainty, and hope, to open new levels of understanding and insight among readers.

Bridge the clinic and the academy. Contributors to *JHR* strongly believe that only by building these bridges can we effectively address the critical questions that face healthcare delivery today.

Provide accessibility. *JHR* is a [diamond-access publication](#) and does not charge for submissions or subscriptions. By removing paywalls, we support inclusivity and expand our readership community.

***JHR* is here for the long haul.**

If you are inspired by our vision, please join us. There are many ways you can [become involved](#) in our mission to expand the humanities in rehabilitation.

Ways to Support *JHR*

- [Create a Business Sponsorship](#)
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- [Submit an article](#)
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Thank you for joining us on this journey of integrating humanities into rehabilitation. Always feel free to [reach out to me](#) directly with your feedback, suggestions, or concerns. We are humbled by the opportunity to join you in this collective work of meaning-making in our shared path toward healing.

Warm regards,

Sarah Blanton, PT, DPT

Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Humanities in Rehabilitation*

About the Author



Sarah Blanton, PT, DPT, Editor-in-Chief is a Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, Division of Physical Therapy. She graduated from the University of Virginia in 1987 with a BA degree in biology, from Emory University in 1992 with her masters in physical therapy and received her clinical doctorate in physical therapy in 2003. Dr. Blanton has had several research grants exploring the integration of caregivers into the rehabilitation process and her current research focus examines the impact of using a telehealth platform for the delivery of a theory-based, family-focused intervention program for stroke survivors and their carepartners in the home setting. Dr. Blanton's Lab, DISCOVER (Digital Scholarship Enhancing Rehabilitation), explores various ways digital scholarship can enhance rehabilitation research, education and clinical practice and promote interdisciplinary collaboration. Dr. Blanton is a Fellow of the National Academy of Practice in Physical Therapy. In 2018, she was awarded the American Physical Therapy Association Societal Impact Award and the Emory University Creativity and Arts award for healthcare faculty. Dr. Blanton's interest in the *Journal of Humanities in Rehabilitation* stems from her ongoing exploration of the intersections of creativity and spirituality to gain insight into the human experience of suffering, joy and mystery. In her teaching, she has found the use of narrative to be an exceptionally powerful tool to foster reflection and personal insight for both students and patients. In her research, she is incorporating multi-media formats to develop family education interventions in the home environment. A photographer since childhood, she has enjoyed sharing her artwork through exhibits at Emory University, speaking with chaplaincy students on "Reflections of Art and Spirituality in Appalachia" and as a guest contributor to the Public Radio show, *On Being*.