



Call for Stories

Living with Chronic Pain in the Midst of the Opioid Crisis

Symposium Editors Kelly Dineen, RN, J.D., Ph.D and Daniel S. Goldberg, J.D., Ph.D

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics will publish a collection of personal stories from individuals who have struggled with chronic pain (CP) at a time when the United States is experiencing an opioid-addiction crisis. While prescription opioids can be effective medications for treating pain, they are also drugs of abuse and misuse. Long term use is controversial and can lead patients to develop a high tolerance to opioids. The public, policymakers, and healthcare providers do not share unified understandings of dependence, abuse, or appropriate opioid use. Patients with CP are caught in a web of conflicting practices and policies, and may end up afraid to take opioids, self-medicating, hoarding, or even seeking illegal opioids. Recent laws and policies may have solved some problems while creating new ones, contributed to providers avoidance of opioid prescribing of patients with CP, and worsened stigma of CP and pain treatment in the U.S.

We want true, personal stories in a form that is interesting and easy to read. **Please share this invitation and guide sheet with appropriate individuals.**

In writing your story, please consider these questions:

- What different types of treatment have you tried for chronic pain? What was good about each type? What was bad?
- If you are dependent on prescription opioids, how did this transpire?
- What would you want to tell people who are struggling with chronic pain? What about their friends and family?
- What would you like to tell health care providers and in particular, people who treat pain, prescribe opioids, or treat prescription opioid-use disorders?
- What should people who develop policies and laws understand about this problem?

You do not need to address each of these questions—write on the issues that you think are most important to share with others. If you are not a writer, tell your story in your own words and our editorial staff will help you.

If you are interested in submitting a story, we ask you **first to submit a 300-word proposal**—a short description of the story you want to tell. **Inquiries or proposals should be sent to the editorial office via email: narrativebioethics@gmail.com. We will give preference to story proposals received by November 15, 2017.**

We plan to publish 12 stories (4 – 10 double-spaced pages or 800 – 2000 words) on this topic. Some additional stories may be published as online-only supplemental material. We also publish 2 – 4 commentary articles that discuss the stories that are published in the journal. To see a finished symposium you may access *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics* Volume 5.1 for free on [Project MUSE](#).

For more information about the journal *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*, the guidelines for authors, and privacy policies, visit our webpage at: <http://nibjournal.org/submit/guidelines/>

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