



Call for Stories

#MeToo in Surgery: Stories from Women Surgeons

Symposium Editor Pringl Miller, MD, FACS

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics will publish a collection of personal stories from women who are surgeons exploring the challenges they face in their field related to gender, gender discrimination, bias, and sexual harassment. Women represent just 20% of the US surgical workforce but 51% of the US population. While many of the challenges women who are surgeons face may be overt—hostility, objectification, pay inequity—others may be covert. A woman may find her career choices, communication style, or sense of authority influenced by her gender norms or expectations.

We seek stories from women who are surgeons who have first-hand experience of gender-related challenges in their professional life.

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:

- How do you think being a woman has affected the way you are treated in surgical practice?
- Do you modify the way you communicate in the workplace? If so, how and why?
- What do you perceive to be the critical barriers to women surgeons achieving equity with men in the workplace?
- Have you experienced gender bias, discrimination (either unintentional or intentional), or sexual harassment by a patient or colleague? How did you respond? If you reported the behavior, how was this handled by your department or by administrators?
- How has being a woman and a surgeon changed you? What role has being a woman surgeon played in your personal life and career choices?
- What changes need to be made in order for surgery to be more attractive to women? What advice do you have for other women surgeons or women considering a career in surgery?

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 **March 15, 2019**. If your story is invited, we will ask you to submit it within 2 months of the invitation. Final stories are 4 – 10 double-spaced pages or 800 – 2000 words.

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/>

We plan to publish 12 stories on this topic in our print edition; 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, please visit *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*' page on [Project MUSE](#) and click on the unlocked, open-access issue.

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics is indexed in PubMed and MEDLINE.

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