



# Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics

## A Journal of Qualitative Research

### Call for Stories

#### Experiencing Racism in Healthcare

*Symposium Editors Gloria Wilder, MD, MPH*

*Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics* will publish a collection of personal stories from patients and healthcare providers who have personally experienced or witnessed racism in a healthcare setting. In the U.S., people of color experience inequalities and biases that contribute to poorer health outcomes. The health of African Americans, in particular, lags behind most other racial minority groups. Compared with whites, black men and women face higher rates of chronic disease, mental health challenges, and have a lower life expectancy. This is true, regardless of socio-economic status, age, gender, or insurance status. These differences may be attributed to the psychological stress that people of color experience from living with chronic discrimination and racially biased systems throughout the lifespan. Some racism in healthcare is overt and reveals conscious racial discrimination. Other times, it is supported by institutional policies or the unconscious bias of individuals. All racism in healthcare leads to mistrust, damaging the patient-provider relationship and further worsening health outcomes.

**We seek stories from patients, family members, and healthcare providers with first-hand experience with racism in a healthcare setting.** We are interested in stories that involve racist behaviors of individuals, demonstrate both conscious and unconscious bias, or reveal racially-biased institutional systems. 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 racially-biased behavior, event, or policy did you experience? Tell us what happened. You may describe more than one experience.
- How did the experience affect you? How did you feel?
- How did you respond to the experience?
- Did the experience change you in any way, and if so, how?
- How would you advise someone faced with a similar situation?

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. If writing makes you uncomfortable, you may invite a co-author. We may also be able to help you type a story that you write by hand or record.

**Inquiries or proposals should be sent to the editorial office via email:** [narrativebioethics@gmail.com](mailto:narrativebioethics@gmail.com). **We will give preference to story proposals received by December 2, 2020.** 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 3 – 4 commentary articles that discuss the stories and explore constructive changes to the healthcare system that are published in the journal. To see a finished symposium find a free access issue here: <http://nibjournal.org/issues/>.

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

*Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics* is indexed in PubMed, MEDLINE, Scopus, Web of Science, and PhilPapers. The journal is published by the Johns Hopkins University Press and is available in print and electronically to over 1,200 institutional subscribers via Project MUSE.