



# Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics

A Journal of Qualitative Research

## Call for Stories

### Grateful Patient Fundraising: Stories from Physicians

*Symposium Editors Jason Keune, MD & Jeremy Lazarus, MD*

*Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics* will publish a collection of personal stories from physicians who have been encouraged by their institutions to solicit donations from patients. Through “Grateful Patient” programs, U.S. Medical Institutions solicit financial gifts from patients and family members, often encouraging physicians to assist in this fundraising. Donations from grateful patients can support capital projects, medical education, and research and clinical programs. Patients may be delighted to give back to the institutions that treated them. However, the practice can put pressure on patients, raise concerns about patient confidentiality and trust, imply that patients without the means or inclination to make gifts are not grateful, and possibly increase a donor’s expectation to receive preferential treatment.

**We seek first-person stories from physicians who have participated in Grateful Patient programs.** We want true, personal stories in a form that is interesting and easy to read. Please share this invitation and guide sheet. In writing your story, consider these questions:

- What conversations has your institution had with you about “Grateful Patient” fundraising? Have you received any coaching about how to effectively approach donors?
- Has your institution developed guidelines for interacting with patients who offer gifts? What are those guidelines? What do you think of these guidelines?
- Are you comfortable with assisting the development office at your institution with approaching your patients for financial gifts? Why or why not?
- Has the experience affected your job satisfaction? Has it affected your physician-patient relationships? If so, in what way?
- Have any donors expected favors from you (e.g., last-minute appointments, prescriptions that were not clinically indicated, or priority for scarce treatments or vaccines)? Did your institution encourage such favors? Did you feel pressure to accommodate such requests? How did you handle this?
- What would you like to tell the leaders at your institution about its “Grateful Patient” program? What would you like patients to know about “Grateful Patient” programs?

You do not need to address each of these questions—write about the issues that you think are most important to share. 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](mailto:narrativebioethics@gmail.com). We will give preference to proposals received by **April 11, 2022**. If your story is invited, we will ask you to submit it within 6 weeks 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 3 – 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.

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