



Call for Stories: Challenges with Healthcare in the Rural and Prairie Environment

Symposium Editors Ann Freeman Cook, PhD, Helena Hoas, PhD

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics will publish a collection of personal stories from healthcare providers in rural and prairie communities who have experience providing care in those environments. In the United States, roughly 15% of the population—about 46 million people—live in rural counties where healthcare can be small scale and difficult to access. There are many factors that influence the delivery of healthcare in rural environments, including health insurance coverage or cost of care, lack of resources and staffing, whether medical research is conducted at a site, unexpected complications requiring transportation to a larger healthcare facility, and competence and availability of the staff.

We want true, personal stories in a form that is interesting and easy to read. We seek stories from physicians, nurse practitioners, RNs and flight nurses, Emergency Medical Technicians, or anyone who provides patient care in the rural and prairie environment. **Please share this invitation and guide sheet with appropriate individuals.**

In writing your story, please consider these questions:

- How has living in a rural area influenced your provision of healthcare?
- Have you had problems providing emergency care or getting air transit to tertiary centers for patients?
- How do you cope with the health disparities that are associated with rural residency such as increased risk of chronic disease, cancer, and suicide?
- How do you navigate loyalties to the health system and to community members?
- Do you have peers and colleagues who provide support and collaboration? Do you experience staff shortages? Have you experienced significant changes in the rural healthcare work force in recent years?
- What does it take to sustain a successful clinical practice in a rural area?
- What advice would you give to healthcare providers who plan to practice in a rural area?

You do not need to address each of these questions—write on the issues that you think are most important to share with others when trying to showcase the rural experience. 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 **October 1, 2017**.

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

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](#).

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