



Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics

A Journal of Qualitative Research

Call for Stories on “Obesity”

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics will publish a narrative symposium focused on stories from people who have been classified obese about discussions they have had with physicians on weight, weight management, and health. The issue is inspired by the American Medical Association’s (AMA) recent decision to classify obesity as a disease. Stories are welcome from anyone currently classified as obese or those who have lost weight but were formerly classified as obese.

In writing your story, you may want to consider these questions:

- What does it mean to you for the AMA to classify obesity as a disease?
- Will this classification affect your relationship with your doctor or other healthcare providers? Do you feel you have good access to medical treatment for obesity?
- Has your doctor addressed your weight? What are discussions with your healthcare providers about your weight like and are they helpful?
- What experiences outside the doctor's office affect your ability to discuss your weight with healthcare professionals?
- Have you ever felt stigmatized by your weight? Do you feel calling obesity a disease will add to or lessen stigmatization?
- What makes weight management difficult for you? Do you think your healthcare provider can help you overcome those obstacles?
- How would you explain your obesity?
- Do you feel your weight is an important factor in being healthy? If so, what does this mean to you?

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 25th of 2013.

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 2, issue 1, on living organ donation 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://www.nibjournal.org/authors/guidelines.html>

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics is indexed in PubMed and MEDLINE.

The journal is published by the Johns Hopkins University Press and is available in print and electronically to over 1,000 institutional subscribers via Project MUSE.