



Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics

A Journal of Qualitative Research

Call for Stories

Receiving the Gift of Life: Stories from Organ Transplant Recipients

Symposium Editors: Tristan McIntosh, PhD and Jason T. Eberl, PhD

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics will publish a collection of personal stories from people who received an organ transplant from a living or deceased donor. Organ transplantation can extend an individual's life by decades. It can also greatly improve an individual's quality of life, for example, by eliminating the need for kidney dialysis. At the same time, organ transplantation is expensive and stressful, recipients can experience complications including organ rejection, and few appealing alternatives exist. The general public and individuals being listed for organ transplantation will benefit from reading first-hand, personal accounts of receiving "the gift of life."

We seek stories from individuals who have received an organ transplant from a living or deceased donor. 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, please consider these questions:

- Why did you need an organ transplant? What solid organ(s) did you receive?
- Was your donor living or deceased? How did that affect your experience?
- What has been positive about receiving a transplanted organ?
- What has been challenging about receiving a transplanted organ?
- Was anything in your overall experience particularly surprising?
- Was there anything you wish you had known before you received a transplanted organ?
- What lessons would you want to share with transplant professionals?
- What would you like to share with individuals who are currently awaiting transplantation?

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 15th**. 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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