Narrative Writing – Selected Venues for Publication with Short Descriptions

Types of Narrative Writing Accepted

* Perspective pieces, personal vignettes, reflections, essays, point of view pieces, opinion pieces
† Creative non-fiction
‡ Fiction
§ Poetry
¶ Medical humanities research
‖ Humanities teaching modules
# Visual arts

A selection of medical and literary journals that publish narrative writing by health sciences professionals:

- **Academic Medicine**: ‘Medicine and the Arts (MATA)’ and ‘Perspectives’ * † ¶
  
  MATA ‘is the journal’s longest-running feature. It is published on two facing pages. The left-hand page features an excerpt from literature, a poem, a photograph, etc. Literature excerpts generally run no more than 700 words and may include a very brief introduction as needed. The right-hand page presents an original commentary of about 900 words that explores the relevance of the artwork to the teaching, learning, and/or practice of medicine.’

  ‘Perspectives may vary in style and length. Generally, they are no longer than 3,000 words and no shorter than 1,500 words (this includes the text only; title page, abstract, references, and exhibits are not included in the word count).’ […] ‘Perspectives describe a considered view about one or more issues in academic medicine, propose and support a new hypothesis, or theorize the implications of as-yet unimplemented programs or innovations. Perspectives, which are peer reviewed, must be scholarly and arguments must be well supported.’

- **Academic Psychiatry**: ‘Perspectives’ and ‘Poetry and Other Creative Works’ * † §
  
  ‘The journal encourages creative works of self-expression by trainees, clinicians, educators, researchers, administrators, or retirees.’

- **American Journal of Nursing**: ‘Art of Nursing,’ ‘Looking Back,’ ‘Viewpoint,’ & ‘Reflections’ * † ‡ § #
  
  The journal accepts poetry, fiction, essays, and visual art focused on nursing and healthcare.

- **American Journal of Psychiatry**: ‘Introspections’ *
  
  ‘Brief personal vignettes of experiences that have been particularly important—moments of insight or inspiration—will be considered for publication. Introspections should be limited to 1,000 words.’

- **Anesthesiology**: ‘Mind to Mind’ † ‡ §
  
  Submitted works can be poetry, fiction, or creative nonfiction. Limit submissions to 1,200 words or less. Authors can be students or a current or emeritus member of the anesthesia, perioperative, critical care, or pain teams. Patients may submit writing about their medical experience.

- **Annals of Family Medicine**: ‘Essays’ *
  
  ‘Reflections from clinicians, patients, families, communities, and policymakers.’

- **Annals of Internal Medicine**: ‘Ad Libitum’ (Poetry), ‘History of Medicine,’ ‘Ideas and Opinions’ & ‘On Being a Doctor’ * † §
  
  Publishes poetry; narratives related to the history or evolution of medicine; opinion pieces; and essays on the experience of doctoring.

- **Ars medica: A Journal of Medicine, the Arts, and Humanities** * † ‡ § ¶ #
  
  ‘Ars Medica is a biannual literary journal, started in 2004, that explores the interface between the arts and healing, and examines what makes medicine an art. […] Ars Medica allows a place for dialogue, meaning-making, and the representation of experiences of the body, health, wellness, and encounters with the medical system. Content includes narratives from patients and health care workers, medical history, fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and visual art.’
• **Bellevue Literary Review** from NYU Langone Medical Center † ‡ §
  ‘The BLR seeks high-caliber, unpublished work, broadly and creatively related to our themes of health, healing, illness, the mind, and the body. We welcome submissions of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry.’

• **BMJ:** ‘Personal Views’ *
  ‘These are highly readable and compelling commentaries that appeal to our international readership of practising doctors. We also publish opinion pieces authored by patients. Read our opinion pieces [here](#).’

• **CMAJ:** ‘Medicine and Society’ & ‘Encounters’ † ‡ § #
  ‘There are four types of Encounters: narratives, graphic medicine, poetry and visual medicine. All Encounters give patients and health care practitioners room for reflection on their experience of illness or medicine.’

• **Examined Life Journal** from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine † ‡ § #
  ‘We’re seeking works related to health and the human condition in all its myriad definitions.’

• **Family Medicine:** ‘Narrative Essays’ † §
  ‘Narrative essays published in *Family Medicine* should be stories (or poems) from clinical practice or from the educational setting and may be submitted by teachers, learners, patients, or health professionals. Narrative essays published in the journal are considered to be scholarly articles and will be peer-reviewed as carefully as original articles and brief reports.’

• **Healing Muse: A Journal of Literary and Visual Arts** from SUNY Upstate Medical University † ‡ § #
  ‘We welcome fiction, poetry, narratives, essays, memoirs and visual art, particularly but not exclusively focusing on themes of medicine, illness, disability and healing’

• **Hektoen International: A Journal of Medical Humanities** from the Hektoen Institute of Medicine † ‡ § #
  ‘Hektoen International began in November 2008 as a free online journal with the motto of Uniting Medicine with Culture. Named in honor of Doctor Ludvig Hektoen, a distinguished professor of pathology at Cook County Hospital and the University of Chicago, the journal features articles on art, history, literature, education, ethics, and other subjects as related to healthcare and medicine.’ You can look at the [different categories which they publish](#).

• **Hospital Drive** from UVA School of Medicine † ‡ § #
  ‘The journal publishes original literature and art on themes of health, illness, and healing. The editorial board and outside reviewers will judge each submission anonymously. Poems, short fiction, essays, visual arts, and audio and video art will be considered. Issues will be published twice a year and may include invited work.’

• **Intima: a Journal of Narrative Medicine** † ‡ § #
  ‘Intima publishes original contributions of literary and artistic merit that relate to the theory and practice of narrative medicine.’ Categories include: fiction, field notes, non-fiction, poetry, and multi-media.

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Journal of the American Geriatrics Society: ‘Old Lives Tales’ *

‘We invite readers to submit stories, experiences, or incidences which have instructed, saddened or gladdened us as physicians and, above all, taught us something about the care of the older adult. Please note that these pieces are neither editorials nor letters to the editor and are not classically “evidence-based’. Thus there is usually no need for references although the editor may ask you for a citation if you are claiming something that appears unlikely to be supportable from the literature. When describing a particular patient, permission should be received in writing from him/her or the personal details changed sufficiently to conceal the person’s identity.’ <1000 words.

JAMA: ‘A Piece of My Mind,’ ‘Poetry,’ and ‘The Arts and Medicine’ *

A Piece of My Mind: ‘Personal vignettes (eg, exploring the dynamics of the patient-physician relationship) taken from wide-ranging experiences in medicine; occasional pieces express views and opinions on the myriad issues that affect the profession. <1600 words.’

Poetry: ‘Original poems related to the medical experience, whether from the point of view of a health care worker or patient, or simply an observer. No longer than 44 lines.’

The Arts & Medicine: ‘Essays that demonstrate the relevance of the arts to the science and practice of medicine.’

JAMA Pediatrics: ‘Viewpoint’ & ‘On My Mind’ *

Viewpoint: ‘May address virtually any important topic in medicine, public health, research, discovery, prevention, ethics, health policy, or health law and generally are not linked to a specific article.’ <1200 words.

On My Mind: Personal vignettes (eg, exploring the dynamics of the patient-physician relationship) taken from wide-ranging experiences in medicine; occasional pieces express views and opinions on the myriad issues that affect the profession. <800 words.

JGIM: ‘Healing Arts: Materia Medica’ and ‘Healing Arts: Text and Context’ *

Materia Medica: ‘Well-crafted and engaging personal narratives, essays, or short stories of up to 1000 words or poetry of up to 40 lines. Works should tell a story that informs and illuminates the practice and teaching of medicine. Non-fiction manuscripts must either disguise or protect persons’ identities, or permission must be obtained from the individual and confirmed by completion of the JGIM Statement of Patient Consent.’

Text and Context: ‘Medical humanities teaching modules that include a 200-800 word excerpt from the humanities (novels, short stories, historiography, drama, visual art, or creative nonfiction) with an accompanying essay of up to 1000 words discussing the significance of the work for clinical practice or medical education. Submissions should include 1-3 learning objectives or discussion questions and may include up to 5 references.’

Journal of Humanities in Rehabilitation *

A ‘peer-reviewed, multimedia, open-access journal published in collaboration with the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship. The purpose of this journal is to raise the consciousness and deepen the intellect of the humanistic relationship in the rehabilitation sciences. Our mission is to encourage dialogue among rehabilitation professionals, patients, families and
caregivers that describe the human condition as it experiences the impact of illness or disability.’ Publishes perspectives, narrative reports, narrative reflection, critical research and perspectives, poetry, and reviews.

- **Journal of Medical Humanities** *ǁ*

  ‘Publishes original interdisciplinary studies of medicine and medical education. Research findings emerge from three areas of investigation: medical humanities, cultural studies, and pedagogy. Medical humanities covers literature on history, philosophy, and bioethics as well as social and behavioral sciences that have strong humanistic traditions. […] Lastly, pedagogical perspectives elucidate what and how knowledge is made and valued in medicine, how that knowledge is expressed and transmitted, and the ideological basis of medical education.’

- **Journal of Surgical Humanities** *†‡§ǁ*

  Submissions ‘May include poetry, short stories, essays or historical vignettes. […] and] must not exceed 5,000 words.’

- **Literature and Medicine from Johns Hopkins University Press** ǁ

  ‘A peer-reviewed journal publishing scholarship that explores representational and cultural practices concerning health care and the body. Areas of interest include disease, illness, and health; the cultures of biomedical science and technology and of the clinic; disability; and violence, trauma, and power relations as these are represented and interpreted in broadly-defined archives of verbal, visual, and material texts.’

- **Medical Humanities (BMJ)** ǁ

  The journal ‘presents the international conversation around medicine and its engagement with the humanities and arts, social sciences, health policy, medical education, patient experience and the public at large. […] It publishes scholarly and critical articles on a broad range of topics. These include history of medicine, cultures of medicine, disability studies, gender and the body, communities in crisis, bioethics, and public health.’

- **Medical Teacher: ‘Personal View’** *

  ‘Personal View articles address a topic in the area of medical/healthcare professions education that is likely to be of interest to Medical Teacher readers. They present and reflect the author’s personal experience or viewpoint relating to the topic.’

- **Neurology: ‘Reflections/Humanities’** *†‡§*

  ‘Neurology and the Humanities submissions may be in the form of poetry or prose. Many neurologists are talented writers. Reflections is intended as a venue for them. Its purpose is to encourage creative writing about topics of interest to neurologists. There are no hard and fast rules about subject matter, but items that illustrate facets of the profession of neurology, particularly if written from a new perspective, are preferred. The quality of the writing style will be as important as the content. Submissions may be fiction or non-fiction. Privacy rules apply.’

- **NEJM: ‘Medicine and Society’ and ‘Perspective’** *

  Medicine and Society: ‘Covers social aspects of medicine and health care, including medical sociology, anthropology, history, and ethics.’ <2000 words.

  Perspective: ‘Covers timely, relevant topics in health care and medicine in a brief, accessible style.’ <1200 words.

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**Patient Education and Counseling (PEC): ‘Reflective Practice’**

‘We welcome personal narratives on caring, patient-clinician relationships, humanism in healthcare, professionalism and its challenges, patients' perspectives, and collaboration in patient care and counseling. Most narratives will describe personal or professional experiences that provide a lesson applicable to caring, humanism, or relationships in health care. No abstract is needed. No (section) headings, no numbering. Maximum 1500 words. Submissions are peer-reviewed.’

**The Perch from the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health**

The literary journal ‘complements [Yale’s] program’s core focus on mental health in all its dimensions, from personal to community-based to its engagement with broad social concerns. For us, mental health has many aspects—physical, emotional, social, civic, political, cultural, spiritual, and more. We are interested in individual health in its settings: how the personal and the communal interact. With The Perch we hope to expand the mental health narrative to include new and unexpected voices, ideas, and creative expressions. We invite submissions from artists and writers across the U.S. and abroad, including people in recovery from all backgrounds and experiences.’

**Public Health Post**

BU SPH’s online publication informs and reflects the broader conversation on health. Every day we feature new articles about the state of the health of the population. We invite policymakers, journalists, academics, and practitioners to share their work in ways that can influence policy on a local, national, and global scale. Our editors, working with graduate student PHP Fellows, tell powerful population health stories in a way that combines data visualization of health statistics, traditional long-form journalism, interviews and debates, and video and curated content. We want to join and drive the national dialogue on public health issues.

**Pulse: voices from the heart of medicine**

‘Every Friday, Pulse--voices from the heart of medicine publishes and distributes a first-person story or poem, together with a visual image or haiku, about health care. [...] Pulse tells the story of health care through the personal experiences of those who live it—patients, health professionals, students and caregivers. [...] Pulse welcomes submissions by anyone who has a healthcare story to tell.’

**Science: ‘Working Life’**

Publishes interesting scientific career stories. Send submissions to SciCareerEditor@aaas.org.

**Survive & Thrive: A Journal for Medical Humanities and Narrative as Medicine**

A journal ‘is dedicated to improving the odds of survival and living well through education. We are committed to engendering and facilitating restorative therapies for the sick and injured, their caretakers, families, and medical professionals. We welcome all who are dedicated to saving lives and the aesthetic experience in healing regardless of the kind of illness or injury.’

**Thirdspace from Harvard University School of Medicine Arts and Humanities Initiative**

‘Anyone can submit work focused on the experiences of premedical and medical students, residents, and fellows. Student status, previous publications, and institutional affiliations are not considered in the selection process. Our assistant editors do not have access to any author information and will review work based on its merit. [...] We want to know how you

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experience medical education. What does being, or knowing, or thinking about a medical student evoke in you? Perhaps you are a parent whose child is applying to medical school. Perhaps you are dating a resident. Perhaps you have been a patient examined by a group of medical students. You may be a premedical student musing on what it might be like to wear a white coat, or a medical student trying to make sense out of your anatomy class, or of your first days on the wards. Perhaps you are a professor or health care professional who has worked with medical students. Maybe you are an artist who imagines medicine through the eyes of a trainee. We want to hear from you. What is it like? How does it feel? What meaning do you assign it? Poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction and all forms of visual art are welcome.

- **WBUR CommonHealth** *

‘CommonHealth welcomes proposals to contribute pieces on medical topics, ranging from your experience as a patient to your heartfelt opinion as an expert. You may simply want to write an opinion piece on a current item in the news, or you may want to share a story written in the first person. We host “Narrating Medicine,” a regular venue for first-person pieces. […] Please send a summary of the article you propose to goldberg.carey@gmail.com.’ WBUR has just launched “Narrating Science” as well!

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