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# The Principles And Practice Of Narrative Medicine



## Synopsis

Narrative medicine is a fresh discipline of health care that helps patients and health professionals to tell and listen to the complex and unique stories of illness. *The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine* expresses the collective experience and discoveries of the originators of the field. Arising at Columbia University in 2000 from roots in the humanities and patient-centered care, narrative medicine draws patients, doctors, nurses, therapists, and health activists together to re-imagine a health care based on trust and trustworthiness, humility, and mutual recognition. Over a decade of education and research has crystallized the goals and methods of narrative medicine, leading to increasingly powerful means to improve the care that patients receive. The methods described in this book harness creativity and insight to help the professionals in being with patients, not just to diagnose and treat them but to bear witness to what they undergo. Narrative medicine training in literary theory, philosophy, narrative ethics, and the creative arts increases clinicians' capacity to perceive the turmoil and suffering borne by patients and to help them to cohere or endure the chaos of illness. Narrative medicine has achieved an international reputation and reach. Many health care settings adopt methods of narrative medicine in teaching and practice. Through the Master of Science in Narrative Medicine graduate program and health professions school curricula at Columbia University, more and more clinicians and scholars have obtained the rigorous training necessary to practice and teach narrative medicine. This text is offered to all who seek the opportunity for disciplined training in narrative medicine. By clearly articulating our principles and practice, this book provides the standards of the field for those who want to join us in seeking authenticity, recognition, affiliation, and justice in a narrative health care.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rita Charon is a general internist and literary scholar at Columbia University who originated the field of narrative medicine and directs the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia. She researches, publishes, and lectures extensively on the relationship between narrative knowledge and the care of the sick. Edgar Rivera Colón, Ph.D. teaches at Columbia University's program in Narrative Medicine. Dr. Rivera Colón is a sexuality and gender anthropologist. For the last fifteen years, he has been conducting ethnographic research on New York City's House Ball community. Sayantani DasGupta teaches in the MS Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University as well as Columbia's Center for Comparative Literature and Society. She also co-chairs Columbia's University Seminar in Narrative, Health and Social Justice and teaches at the Health Advocacy Program at Sarah Lawrence College. Nellie Hermann was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and lives in Brooklyn, New York. Her second novel, *The Season of Migration*, was published by FSG in January and was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice. She is the Creative Director of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University and has taught and lectured widely on the use of creativity in nontraditional contexts. Craig Irvine is Director of the Masters Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University and Director of Education of the Program in Narrative Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. Eric R. Marcus is Director of the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research and is a training and supervising analyst there. He is a professor of clinical psychiatry at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Danielle Spencer is a Faculty member of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University as well as the Einstein-Cardozo Master of Science in Bioethics program in New York. Spencer presents regularly at medical humanities and bioethics conferences and has been published in *The Lancet*, *WIRED*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Esopus* and *The Hungarian Review*. Maura Spiegel has been teaching fiction and film at Columbia University and Barnard College for the past 20 years. She is a founding member of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, where she offers film courses to first-year medical students.

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