

Information for *Miami Med Speaks* Storytellers: Guidelines, Tips, & Privacy

About the Initiative

Miami Med Speaks aims to provide a space for healthcare workers and university members to engage in self-expression in a manner that nurtures vulnerability, empowers listeners, and fosters community.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope to provide a creative outlet for members of the University of Miami community to reflect on the challenges, uncertainty, unity, hope, and innovations taking place in their lives. We want to hear your stories of the pandemic. From individuals on the frontlines, providers transitioning to telehealth, students spearheading volunteer efforts, healthcare workers behind the scenes, individuals promoting health equity, and innovators rising to the challenge of the moment—we all have a voice and a story worth sharing. With your help, we strive to document this unprecedented moment in medical history by assembling powerful video story submissions into a video “time capsule.” This storytelling project originally began as an idea for a live event in the fall of 2020, but like all plans for this year, things have changed. Although we do hope to host a live event in the future, we feel that now, more than ever, it is crucial to reflect, express, and connect. We are inviting you—members of the healthcare community—to participate in this virtual storytelling pilot project.

Traditionally, live “story slams” are events that celebrate storytelling by inviting participants to share brief stories with an audience. Although there will not be a live audience, we strive to collect your story submissions into a thought-provoking COVID-19 time capsule where storytellers connect with their audiences virtually.

We recognize that racism is a public health epidemic that negatively impacts the wellbeing and health outcomes of people of color. This ranges from police brutality to the novel coronavirus. As members of the health care community, we bear a responsibility to be active allies and undertake structural changes that ensure true equity and combat racism. We are especially interested in hearing stories from Black Americans and individuals actively serving Black communities as they face the long-lasting impacts of racism in this country—including increased morbidity and mortality due to COVID-19.

Preparing Your Story

Think carefully about the story you want to share. Aim for sharing a story that conveys the humanity in medicine throughout this pandemic. This can emphasize the fascinating, awe-inspiring, exciting, fulfilling nature of working in healthcare. But it can also highlight your personal challenges and how you continue to learn from them in this time of uncertainty. Be vulnerable. What moments have impacted you the most over the past few months, how have they changed you, and how have they highlighted humanity amidst COVID-19?

As a medical storytelling project, maintaining patient confidentiality is essential. Any patient in your story should not be able to recognize themselves or have friends recognize the patient. Hence, it is required that you alter the identity of any patients in the story or obtain written consent from the individual as described in our **Consent Form**. If it is necessary for you to obtain such permission, please contact us for a form that you can use to be sure you appropriately inform those identified. Avoid profanity, refrain from slander, and be respectful of patients, colleagues and others mentioned in your story. Tasteful humor is welcome. But please keep in mind that the project’s purpose is to share inspiring, thought-provoking stories not stand-up comedy routines.

Take care in preparing your story and practice it so that you are sure it will not exceed 5 minutes and that you are comfortable telling it. Dress however you will be comfortable. When videotaping yourself, refrain from using notes and speak to the camera as if you were telling your story to a live audience. Please film yourself with adequate lighting so

that there is no backlight and your image is clear. It does not need to be a perfect recording, but we do ask to be mindful of your setting. For detailed tips on how to record your story, please review our **Technical Tips**.

We strongly recommend that you review a couple of similar medical storytelling projects as examples and inspiration for your own story. *The Nocturnist* podcast is currently conducting a powerful COVID-19 Audio Diaries series where healthcare workers share their raw, unfiltered experiences and emotions during the pandemic. Their older seasons offer recordings of stories told at live events. We encourage you to listen to both examples from *The Nocturnist*, however, please keep in mind that we are looking for stories as oppose to diaries for this project. Additionally, the *ACP's Annals Story Slam* website has a collection of videos from live medical storytelling events.

- [The Nocturnist](#)
 - COVID-19 Audio Diaries example: Season 4, Episode 1: Stories From a Pandemic – A New World
 - Traditional podcast example: Season 3, Episode 2: Rhino Rocket
- [ACP Annals Story Slam](#)

You can find some general tips on effective story telling at the following web sites:

<http://thenocturnists.com/what-we-are-looking-for>

<http://themoth.org/tell-a-story/storytelling-tips>

What will happen to your story as part of the Miami Med Speaks project?

Once you submit your story recording and consent, our team will review your submission. If selected to be included in the final project, we will notify you via email. We will then assemble your video story with other powerful submissions to be included in a video project for public viewing on the Ethics & Medical Humanities Pathway website. Once the project is finalized, you will be notified with how to access the publication. Posted videos will be publicly accessible for free and disseminated using email and social media.

Permissions

By participating in the project, you are agreeing to sign over copyright for the audio/video recordings to *Miami Med Speaks*. *Miami Med Speaks* will ask you to sign a copyright agreement in order to use your video in the project. If you have any concerns about these conditions, please let us know immediately.

If you cannot mask the identity of others mentioned in your story, you will need to obtain permission from them prior to filming to identify them in your story. If it is necessary for you to obtain such permission, please contact us for a form that you can use to be sure you appropriately inform those identified. We need your assurance that you obtained permission and could provide documentation of that permission in the event that *Miami Med Speaks* needed that documentation.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, please email MiamiMedSpeaks@gmail.com or Christina Barkas, cbarkas@med.miami.edu.