

Call for Papers: Essay Contest

Essay Contest: “Stories of MDM”

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Medical Decision Making (MDM), the official journal of the Society for Medical Decision Making, is sponsoring a contest for narrative-form essays that describe how and why medical decision-making research matters.

Medical decision-making research can have a huge impact on outcomes in health policy, the practice of health care, and the experiences of clinicians and patients. Yet, the models, analyses, and experiments used in this branch of research are often opaque to people outside the community.

The goal of this contest is to encourage researchers to share stories of medical decision making in a rigorous yet accessible format that is suitable for enjoyment by a broad audience—an interested general clinician, a medically literate patient, a health journalist, and/or a member of congressional or legislative staff. Authors are invited to identify real-world problems that have been addressed by medical decision-making research, describing in concrete terms how such research has resulted in changes within the practice of medicine, health policy, and/or outcomes for individual patients or groups of patients.

Manuscripts should be conceptually simple, include concrete details, reflect the author’s personal voice, and, ideally, be surprising or unexpected in either processes or outcomes. Submitted essays must be written as stories that describe in an evolving and concrete way the focal problems and how medical decision-making research led to solutions. They should reflect the credibility of “someone who was there,” more so than content expertise.

Essays should be submitted to *MDM* as editorials with “Stories of MDM” specified in the cover letter and in the article title (e.g., “Stories of MDM: From a Conversation to a Career of Making Less Data More Useful”).

Although all essays that meet these guidelines will receive full consideration, the editors especially encourage 1) stories written by researchers, describing their personal research journeys, and 2) coauthored stories of senior researchers as shared with junior researchers or trainees.

All manuscripts are subject to *MDM*’s usual criteria and peer review process, managed by *MDM* editors. There is no guarantee that any manuscripts submitted for the contest will be accepted. Winning essays will be published by *MDM* as part of a new, web-only feature in the journal.

Important Dates: Target deadline for essay submissions: February 15, 2015 (but submissions will be considered on an ongoing basis); expected publication starting mid-2015.