



Call for papers

Narratives in Medicine: Human Dimensions in a Tech-Driven Healthcare and Society

Nordic network for narratives in medicine, Lund University, 20–21 October 2026

The Nordic Network for Narratives in Medicine invites submissions for a network meeting dedicated to the role of narratives in medicine, with particular attention to how stories of illness, care, and clinical practice are created, reshaped, silenced, or amplified in an increasingly tech-driven world. Against a backdrop of social media, AI, VR, digital health infrastructures, and other technologies, we seek to examine how new technological conditions influence narrative practices in healthcare as well as how patients, clinicians, next of kin, and students make sense of illness and care.

In this changing landscape, it remains crucial to safeguard space for the individual person and her story, whether this person is a patient, next of kin, healthcare worker, or student. The growing interest in narrative approaches intersects with ongoing technological transformation, and this meeting aims to explore how we can engage with these changes in clinical, educational, and research settings.

We welcome papers from scholars and practitioners across the humanities, social sciences, medicine and healthcare, the arts, and related fields. Our shared interest lies in narratives of illness, care, and medicine – expressed in artistic media, interpersonal encounters, and clinical practice, and approached through both theoretical and empirical perspectives.

We invite papers on topics including, but not limited to:

- How narratives in medicine and healthcare are reshaped or influenced by contemporary technological developments
- How narratives and the field of narrative medicine can contribute to a tech driven healthcare system and society
- How artistic and autobiographical illness narratives across media and genres are affected by technological change; emerging aesthetics of illness narratives

- How patients use chatbots or other digital tools for diagnostic guidance, and how this shapes health anxiety, agency, and access to information
- Which groups may be marginalized or left behind in digital health transformations
- Representations of technology in narratives – euphoria, fear, or everyday life; utopian and dystopian visions
- How digital technology influences patients’ understanding of their illness; effects on narrative voice, agency, and meaning making
- How technologies such as digital health records or AI generated clinical notes affect the clinician-patient relationship and clinicians’ perceptions of health and illness
- How narrative and reflective practices in medical education can be re imagined in a context of AI and other technology; emerging challenges and opportunities
- How narratives and narrative practices help us understand ethical tensions in tech driven healthcare, and how these tensions shape empathy, phronesis, and clinical judgement
- Which elements of clinical care are, or are not, replaceable by generative AI, and how this shapes future healthcare

Keynote speakers are:

- **Hanna Meretoja**, Professor of Comparative Literature and director of the research centre *SELMA: Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory* at the University of Turku, as well as a novelist.
- **Pia Dellson**, Senior Physician in Oncology and Psychiatry at Skåne University Hospital, teacher in medical humanities and communication at Lund University, as well as a poet.

Please send an abstract of **max 200 words** to Åsa Thormählen (asa.thormahlen@med.lu.se) by **5 June, 2026**. Include a **short bio of max 50 words**. You will receive notification of whether your abstract has been accepted no later than 18 June. Each presenter is allotted **15 minutes**, followed by a short discussion.

We encourage presentations in **any Scandinavian language or in English**. Please submit your abstract in the language you plan to give your presentation in, as that will influence the structuring of the program. You are also welcome to participate in the conference without presenting.

Participation in the conference is free of charge. Travel and accommodation are the responsibility of the participants. The conference will take **place from lunchtime October 20 to the afternoon October 21**.

The conference is organized by the **Nordic Network for Narratives in Medicine** in collaboration with the **Birgit Rausing Centre for Medical Humanities, Lund University**.