12th Annual Narrative Medicine Conference

Rehumanizing the Clinical Encounter Through Narrative Practice

Where Story Meets Care

Friday, September 18, 2026 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM CT

Hybrid Event: In-person at Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, IL (Virtual Option)

Dan P. McAdams is the Henry Wade Rogers Professor of Psychology and Professor of Human Development and Social Policy at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. In 2022-23, he served as the Interim Dean of Northwestern's School of Education and Social Policy. Professor McAdams received his B.S. degree from Christ College, Valparaiso University in 1976, and his Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Relations from Harvard University in 1979.

Author of over 300 scientific articles and chapters, numerous edited volumes, and 9 books, Professor McAdams works in the areas of personality and life-span developmental psychology. His theoretical and empirical writings focus on concepts of self and identity in contemporary American society and on themes of power, intimacy, redemption, and generativity across the adult life course. Professor McAdams is a leader in the emergence within the social sciences of narrative conceptions of human lives – approaches that place stories and storytelling at the center of human personality.

8:00am -8:30am	**Registration, Breakfast & Viewing of Posters**
8:30 am -8:40 am	**Welcome** Mark Butterly, MD, FAAP, CMO, Advocate Children's Hospital, AH, IL Division; Chair, Department of Pediatrics, ACMC/ACH & ALGH/ACH-PR
8:40 am-8:45 am	**Opening Meditation** Stephen Lee, Advocate Health Care
8:45 am-9:00 am	**Ice Breaker** Tigelique Woods, MPH, RDT, Health Programming Coordinator, District 207 Student Based Health Center
9:00 am – 10:15 am	**Keynote Address – Life Stories: Narratives of Redemption & Acceptance** Dan McAdams, PhD, Professor, Northwestern University
10:15 am – 10:30 am	**Break**
10:30 am - 10:40 am	**Telling Our Stories** Tammy Ruh-Mertens
10:40 am - 11:30 am	**Finding Narrative Identity in the Art of Digital Storytelling** Patricia Padgurskis, PT, DPT, PCS, Senior Instructional Designer, Advocate Health
11:30 am - 11:45 am	**Narrative Education Awards & Telling Our Stories** Marjorie Getz, PhD, Program Manager, Psycho-Educational Consultation and Evaluation Services, Developmental Pediatrics Co-Director, Narrative Medicine, Advocate Children's Hospital & Angela Smilovici, Mother
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	**Lunch & Poster Viewing**
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	**A New DAWN in Resident Education: Unlocking Our Trainees' Identities as Storytellers** Aimee Mepham, MFA, Associate Director, Humanities Institute, Wake Forest University & Kristen Zeller, MD, Academic Faculty Physician; Pediatrics Surgery, Wake Forest University
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	**Break**
2:30 pm – 2:40 pm	**Telling Our Stories** Ruby Roy, MD, Medical Director Pediatric Complex Care, Advocate Children's Hospital
2:40 pm – 3:20 pm	**Panel Discussion – Beyond the Chart: The Impact of Identity and Story in Healthcare** Led by Dan McAdams, PhD with Amanda Parry, Angela Smilovici and Ruby Roy, MD
3:20 pm – 3:30 pm	**Closing Meditation & Final Remarks** Stephen Lee, Marjorie Getz, PhD & David Thoele, MD

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Registration Information: Click the Link or Use the QR Code Below to Register.

Early Bird Rates: Prior to August 16, 2026
In-Person - $100 / **Virtual** - $90
Regular Registration Rates: August 17 – September 14, 2026
In-Person - $120 / **Virtual** - $100
Late Registration Rates: After September 14, 2026
In-Person – $140 / **Virtual –** $110
Learners Throughout Registration - $30
Conference Fees are non-refundable

For more information on poster submission, click **HERE**.

Contact us at ACH-NarrativeMedicine@aah.org with questions.

Objective:

- Recognize the improvement in their patient interview.
- Recognize improvement in their writing/documentation skills.
- Identify ways HCP/patient/caregiver can promote communication.
- Identify the role that arts and humanities activities can play in patient care activities.
- Identify avenues to pursue that can improve their creative or reflective writing, helping HCPs build resilience, avoid burnout, and support families.

Target Audience: This activity is designed for physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, and other healthcare professionals.

Disclosure: Faculty disclosures are being reviewed and will be presented to the audience in advance of the program.

Commercial Support: There is no financial support for the activities.

Accreditation Statement:

JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™ INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, Advocate Health is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

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ADVOCATEHEALTH

Credit Designation Statement(s):

American Medical Association (AMA):

Advocate Health designates this live activity for a maximum of 4.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC):

Advocate Health designates this live activity for a maximum of 4.75 ANCC contact hours. Nurses should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

As a Jointly Accredited Organization, Advocate Health is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. Social workers completing this course receive 4.75 general continuing education credits.

American Psychological Association (APA)

Continuing Education (CE) credits for psychologists are provided through the co-sponsorship of the American Psychological Association (APA) Office of Continuing Education in Psychology (CEP). The APA CEP Office maintains responsibility for the content of the programs.

Board Recognition Statement(s)

American Board of Surgery (ABS)

Successful completion of this CME activity enables the learner to earn credit toward the CME of the American Board of Surgery's Continuous Certification program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit learner completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABS credit.