

Topics of discussion

Topics to be discussed and debated include:

- An ethics of care in the service of health journalism.
- Weighing the consequences, balancing values: health journalism's multiple audiences and responsibilities.
- (Mis)understanding science – the media's role in facilitating the public 'understanding' of health and medical science.
- Stigma, blaming and shame: are journalists helping, healing or harming?
- In whose name?: experts, empowered citizens, indigenous knowledge and agency.
- People, publics and the duty of utmost care: interviewing patients, finding sources and facilitating the voice of ordinary people in health journalism.
- Shaping new curricula for health journalism education.
- Independence, accountability, credibility, completeness and fairness – towards a 'Hippocratic Oath' for health journalists?

"Health journalism is arguably more ethically complex than other types of journalism and, as we've recently launched the Discovery Centre for Health Journalism at the JMS, we want to tease out some of the issues that health journalists in the field are grappling with," said Professor Harry Dugmore, Director of the Discovery Centre for Health Journalism. "This will help us develop the curriculum for our new honours course in health journalism better, and will hopefully also be useful for other Journalism Schools in Africa."

For more information about the symposium visit: <http://healthreporting.ru.ac.za>