

Episode: *Editorial Fellow Interview: “Equity and Ethics in the Undiagnosed Diseases Network”*

Guest: Peter Nelson, MD

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript: Cheryl Green

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[bright theme music]

[00:00:03] TIM HOFF: Welcome to another episode of the Editorial Fellow Interview series from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*. I’m your host, Tim Hoff. This series provides insight into how our editorial fellows help to curate issues of the Journal and highlights important takeaways for listeners. Joining me on this episode is Dr Peter Nelson, a resident physician in the combined internal medicine-pediatrics program at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark. He’s here to discuss the October 2025 issue of the Journal, co-curated with Georgeann Booth, [Diagnostic Research](#). Dr Nelson, thank you so much for being here.

DR PETER NELSON: Happy to be here. Thank you. [music fades]

[00:00:43] HOFF: So, what’s the main ethics point of this issue of the Journal?

NELSON: Yeah, I think the main thing that we really wanted to focus on was understanding, with the new technologies that are available for diagnostics and even for therapeutics, how do we make sure that patients around the country and even around the world are getting access to these new technologies and understanding who’s really benefiting from some of these advancements? How do we make sure that our patients are benefiting from these new advancements and new technologies? Rather than just these sitting in research studies or in pharmaceutical companies, but really starting to impact the actual clinical care for these patients.

[00:01:32] HOFF: And so, what should health professions students and trainees be taking from this issue?

NELSON: Yeah, I think one of the big things is even if you’re not an expert in molecular genetics or these new technologies, there are things you can be doing to support your patients in their own pursuit of figuring out their own diagnostic journey, figuring out how you can help your patients get the answers and the care that they need and they deserve. You don’t need to be an expert in all of these topics, but there are things that you can be doing to support them and really help them in that process.

[00:02:15] HOFF: And finally, if you could add something to the discourse in this issue or perhaps just highlight something that you think is of particular importance, what would that be?

NELSON: Yeah, I think something I would really love to add in or really would love to include would be some of the patient perspectives. It's one thing to sit here and say, okay, how would I help a patient through this journey? But it's another thing to hear from the patients themselves about the impact of getting answers or even not getting the answers that they wanted. [theme music returns] I think that's a perspective that I would love to have included in this issue.

[00:02:54] HOFF: Dr Nelson, thank you so much for your time on the podcast today, and thanks to you and Georgeann Booth for your work in curating this month's issue of the Journal.

NELSON: Thank you very much.

HOFF: To read the full article, as well as the rest of this month's issue for free, visit our site, journalofethics.org. We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.