



Flipping Cancer

Flipping Cancer is a performance installation in story, dance/movement, and visual landscapes, created from interviews with people who face advanced cancers as patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers. Through site-specific collaborations, the live, interactive performance production and its public rehearsal and/or clinical workshop series are led by artist-scholar Marie Garlock (PhD candidate, Communication). This project residency is ideal for clinical education environments that gather a range of healthcare leaders and practitioners, and patient-focused organizations and learners serving diverse communities. *Flipping Cancer* helps to host critical inter-professional dialogue, develop intersectional understanding of patient advocacy skills and ethics, and motivate creative approaches to partnering with vulnerable populations with advanced cancers.

Marie Garlock — marie@itisinyou.org — 919 607 5533 — itisinyou.org/flipping-cancer

FLIPPING CANCER PERFORMANCE AND RESIDENCY PROGRAMMING

Performance

As hosted by their home institution, professional organization, or conference body, audiences—usually 125-250 attendees—join the 75 minute production of *Flipping Cancer*, and 15-30 minute discussion. Attendees may include healthcare professionals, faculty and students, or patients and families. Site-specific participants join Marie and allied professionals for a facilitated reflection panel that incorporates core educational themes, guided by the performance.

Topics

- Assets-based insights on the in/dignities of living with advanced (stage IV) illness
- Integrating patient perspectives on complications they experience from surgery, treatment
- Healthcare access, affordability; race, income, geography disparities in cancer incidence and care
- Addressing pain management in cancer care; death and dying in medical contexts
- Assessing research priorities and health-related decision making for advanced illness; connecting across a care continuum of cancer prevention, treatment with palliative or supportive care
- Ethics of popular cancer campaigns (e.g., “pinkwashing”) and the ways they can directly affect provider-patient dynamics and priorities in clinical care; and highlighting participants’ visions for alternate systems-level and creative patient advocacy, led by persons with advanced cancers

Outcomes

- **Audiences:** Partnership to host the *Flipping Cancer* project has been of benefit to a wide range of audiences—e.g., healthcare providers who convene to make sense of ethical or communication challenges faced in their respective fields; or patients with advanced cancers who see themselves reflected in dignified ways, with respect for their perspectives so rarely given a public platform.
- **Educational objectives:** Given the rich material and diverse voices highlighted, audiences note they carry insights from *Flipping Cancer* into their patient care or advocacy roles, even in non-oncology environments. Educators and clinical leaders across disciplines remark on continued relevance of the piece as applied to their learning objectives and professional roles, months later.
- **Professional development:** Public rehearsal and workshop participants note their ability to “Connec[t] with colleagues differently and more deeply than in 1 year of clinical residency together so far,” in healthcare storytelling, stress relief techniques and topics tailored to their community.



FLIPPING CANCER PRINCIPLES

Mission — Engage clinical and host audiences in vital, on-the-ground research about advanced cancer care experiences, in an innovative, immersive, and unforgettable format.

Flipping Cancer centers intimate patient perspectives and systems-level health justice approaches to medical and cultural experiences of cancer. The performance is tailored from ongoing oral history interviews and critical ethnography in clinical and civil society organizations focused on cancer care. The production represents a way of conducting and also translating community-accountable healthcare and health communication research. Practices of inclusion characterize the residency process along the way: clinical workshops on healthcare storytelling and stress relief techniques; public rehearsals for the piece's "Performance Chorus" comprised of oncology patients, family caregivers, and healthcare providers; and facilitated discussion after the performance, for high quality learning outcomes from guided solo, duo, and group tiered reflection and synthesis. Our aim is to promote more creative, interdisciplinary approaches to communicating about and navigating the many ethical conundrums built into life, death, caregiving, and professional work with cancers.

Background — *Flipping Cancer* emerges from 6 years of research-based collaboration with more than 1,100 participants at cancer clinics and in policy settings. These are communities advocating for access to quality healthcare, healthy environments, and to address health disparities with/for underserved populations. The project began during Marie's mother's 7 years with stage IV breast cancer (she passed on at 53 in 2013). Since, Marie has been a caregiver for many friends/mentors/colleagues with stage IV cancers, served on advisory boards of national cancer and patient advocacy organizations, and taught and presented research in clinical, gallery, university and healthcare certification residencies across the U.S. and internationally.

Vision — Honor urgent perspectives from within cancer care settings, by sharing them interactively, with diverse audiences. Many participants featured in the *Flipping Cancer* script respond to racial, gender, environmental, literacy, geographic, and economic inequalities linked to high incidences of cancer in their communities. Many participants offer humorous, moving wisdoms from both challenging and motivating healthcare experiences while facing advanced disease.



FLIPPING CANCER PROCESS

Two to three participatory workshops in InterPlay methods precede the *Flipping Cancer* performance, open to communities served by the hosting healthcare provider. Workshops link healthcare storytelling and stress relief practices to process participants' experiences in oncology care, or more broadly, as desired by hosts. Workshops are led by Marie, accompanied by sound healing music with an experienced Chaplain (Rev. Stacy Grove), whose clinical supportive care work focuses on anti-inflammation and pain relief techniques. Atop stress relief, workshops offer participants creative tools to address challenges like compassion fatigue or team communication barriers. Participants, usually 15-40, join similar others in privacy: healthcare professionals who often come in department or unit groups, patients and family caregivers, trainees or students each have their own 60 or 75 minute session. Marie works with hospital staff to arrange venue and outreach.

Two public rehearsals are conducted to form a "Performance Chorus" that joins at the heart of *Flipping Cancer*, as comprised by 6-8 rehearsal participants who are patients, family caregivers, and healthcare providers. In the live production, these persons perform some of their own vital stories and insights about facing advanced cancers. Participants make each version of *Flipping Cancer* powerfully relevant, as they generate new performance material under Marie's direction in the residency. Incremental InterPlay methods adapt to create quality outcomes for interested people with/without performance experience, and welcome all types of bodies, health statuses, and energy levels while in treatment. Participation can be a profound act for many facing advanced cancers.

The performance production is always embedded within conference programming or curricula, tailored to key themes and learning outcomes for participants. *Flipping Cancer* is built on the unique capacities of live performance—rather than lecture, speech, or a panel—to embody relevant questions and explore pressing issues that may be too complex, taboo, or uncomfortable to simply talk or read about, especially when gathering stakeholders across affiliations. The content can act as a pressure valve release—opening space for nuanced honesty, for which participants often yearn.



FLIPPING CANCER PARTNERS

Marie Garlock: 11 years' experience creating live performances based on innovative, community-led research in health and social change; leading workshops, organizing festivals and public hearings on health and civil rights; conducting U.S. and international residencies itisinyou.org/bio

Collaborators

- **Rev. Stacy Grove:** Musician for performance, workshops. Interfaith Chaplain who [plays](#) sound healing [music](#) orchestras for palliative, hospice care; leads interfaith, cross-cultural education.
- **Stacey L. Kirby:** Interactive visual art in performance, installation as “Medical Intake Officer” with arriving audiences, production assistant. [Artist on civil, LGBTQ, voting rights, Int'l ArtPrize Winner.](#)
- **Alex Maness:** Lighting, projection design/implementation. Award-winning [theater design.](#)
- **Andrew Synowiez:** Sound, live film design/implementation. Award-winning technologist, [film artist.](#)
- **Public performance chorus members:** Patients, family caregivers, healthcare professionals, medical students. Examples of participants: stage IV breast cancer patient & PharmD, Family MD & stage IV lung cancer patient, young adult Hospital Chaplain & current cancer patient, Hospital System Pastoral Care Director, medical student, clinical researcher, widowed spouse caregiver, caregiving sibling. Participants have been Black, Latinx, South Asian, White, ages 21-76.

References

- **Mellisa Wheeler, MHA,** Director, Office of Disparities and Outreach, Levine Cancer Institute, mellisa.wheeler@carolinashhealthcare.org, 980-442-2509
- **Amy Weil, MD** Director, Intensive Integration Initiative, Co-Director Beacon Child and Family Program, Clinical Professor of Medicine, UNC Chapel Hill, amy_weil@med.unc.edu
- **Rev. Katherine Higgins,** National Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Director of Community, Practice, and Members, katherine@acpe.edu

More Info

- Institutional collaborations—itisinyou.org/flipping-cancer, Video—itisinyou.org/flipping-cancer-film




FLIPPING CANCER

ADDENDUM - EXAMPLE RESIDENCY #1

UNC School of Medicine

Intensive Integration initiative, annual curriculum keynote

- **Audience:** 200 people at UNC-CH School of Medicine. All clinical Application phase (third year) students joining from placements across rural/urban North Carolina, public guests and faculty in Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Anthropology, Pastoral Care, Occupational Therapy, English and Comparative Literature, Public Health, Public Policy, Dentistry, Social Medicine
- **Format:**
 - Performance production, installed in Old Clinic Auditorium @School of Medicine—Friday
 - Dress rehearsal with performance chorus and technician team, Old Clinic Auditorium—Thursday
 - InterPlay for Healthcare Storytelling workshops series, UNC Hospitals—Tuesday, Wednesday
- **Funding sources:** Center for Faculty Excellence, HHIVE Lab, Arts@TheCore/Mellon Foundation, Program in Interdisciplinary Health Communication
- **Performance poster:** December 2016



The Intensive Integration Curriculum of the
UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine
PRESENTS
Guest Artist Marie Garlock's

FLIPPING CANCER

an interactive performance
about health justice

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 2
@ 8:30 AM

OLD CLINIC
AUDITORIUM

CO-SPONSORS:
Center for Faculty Excellence
ARTS @ THE CORE - Carolina Performing Arts
UNC Interdisciplinary Health Communication
HHIVE Lab - Health + Humanities

Created from interviews
with people who face
advanced cancers as
patients, caregivers +
healthcare providers.
An installation in
story, dance/movement
+ visual landscapes.
Music by
Chaplain Stacy Grove.
Offered for all
Application Phase
students, faculty.

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ADDENDUM - EXAMPLE RESIDENCY #2

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education
Statewide annual conference keynote

- **Audience:** 150 hospital chaplains serving in clinical and community environments across rural/urban North Carolina, gathered for annual Clinical Pastoral Education certification conference
- **Format:**
 - Performance production in conference venue—Friday morning, 75 minutes, 30 minute dialogue
 - Conference-wide InterPlay workshop for Clinical Pastoral Care—Friday afternoon, 75 minutes
 - Dress rehearsal with performance chorus and technician team—Thursday night, 2.5 hours
 - InterPlay for Healthcare Storytelling workshops series, UNC Hospitals—3 workshops throughout prior 2 months to serve different regional practitioners' scheduling needs, 60-75 minutes each
- **Funding sources:** Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, UNC Healthcare Educational Fund, private donations in honor/memory of loved ones—sponsored by 501c3 HeartSpace
- **Conference poster:** July 2017

NC CPE DAY
JULY 21, 2017

UNC
HEALTHCARE
MORRISVILLE
CONFERENCE
CENTER
@ 5221
Paramount
Parkway,
Morrisville,
NC, 27560

CLINICAL PASTORAL
EDUCATION DAY
FRIDAY 7.21.2017
9:30 AM - 3:45 PM

SCHEDULE

9:30: CPE Welcome
10:00: Keynote, Marie Garlock,
Flipping Cancer
11:30: Break
11:45: Dialogue for CPE Settings
12:30: Lunch, with Supervisors
& SESs gathering for NC
Subregional Meeting
2:00: Interactive Workshop on
CPE Creativity
& Stress Relief
3:30: Closing

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ADDENDUM - EXAMPLE RESIDENCY #3

• **More Residencies:**

- University of Calgary, School of Medicine—International Healthcare and Humanities Symposium
- North Park University Chicago—Keynote, Communication, Nursing, Biology, Psychology, Divinity
- Louisiana State University—Keynote, Health Communication and Performance Studies
- InterPlayce Gallery Oakland—Residency, International Arts and Social Change Curriculum
- Performance Studies International—Leeds University, interactive production installation
- Florida International University—Art and Art History residency, installed with Geraldine Ondrizek's *Cellular: Inner Space, Global Matter* at MBUS/Miami Beach Urban Studios Galleries

- **Workshop flier:** Levine Cancer Institute, February 2018 Residency for THINK: Treating Health Inequities with New Knowledge AHEC summit (175 oncology professionals, Charlotte, NC)

WORKSHOP: INTERPLAY FOR CANCER CARE SETTINGS

Come relieve stress and access creativity.

Levine Cancer Institute: Morehead, Charlotte
3rd floor, Conference Room 3035

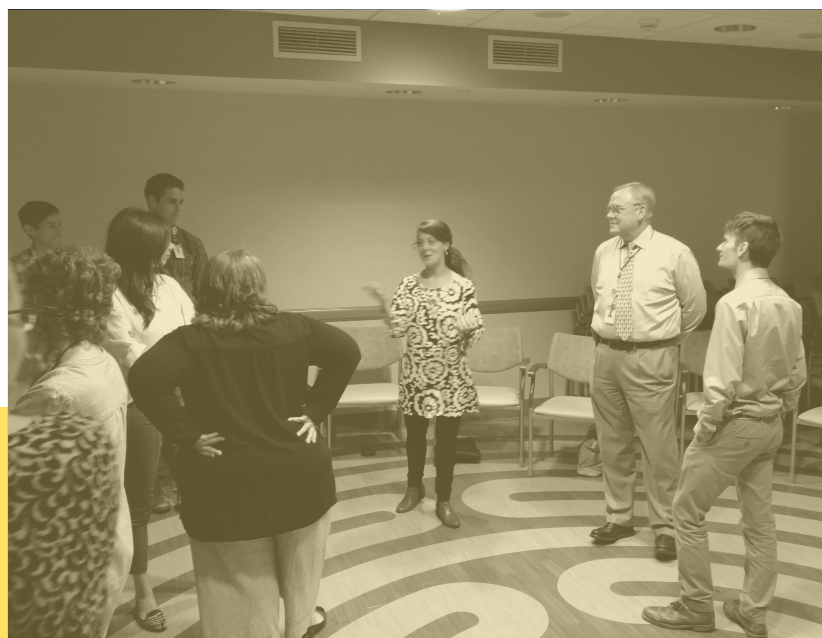
Patients, Family and
Friend Caregivers
Thursday, Feb. 8
11:30-12:30pm

Healthcare
Providers and Staff
Thursday, Feb. 8
4:30-5:30pm

Led by Marie Garlock, PhD(c). We will learn skills to restore ourselves during chronic stress with movement and stillness, vocal and breath relaxation, and unique storytelling tactics. Live sound healing music by Rev. Stacy Grove. All bodies, pain, fatigue, and mobility levels welcome. No prior experience needed. Snacks provided.

InterPlay is an active, creative way to unlock the wisdom of the body. With the privacy of people in similar circumstances to you, learn refreshing, powerful ways to honor and sometimes release the many rich stories we hold as patients and caregivers, and as healthcare providers.

Sign up: lcioutreach@carolinas.org or 980.442.3056
RSVP helpful by Feb. 6, walk-ins welcome



- **Summit Agenda:** Treating Health Inequities with New Knowledge (THINK), hosted by Charlotte AHEC and Levine Cancer Institute, Charlotte NC @ Project 658

T.H.I.N.K. Academy: Treating Health Inequities with New Knowledge Friday, February 16, 2018

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|-------------------------|--|
| 7:30-8:30 a.m. | Breakfast/Registration/Networking |
| 8:30-9:00 a.m. | Welcome to T.H.I.N.K Academy
Mellisa Wheeler, BSW, MHA Director Disparities & Outreach of Levine Cancer Institute
Derek Raghavan, MD, PHD, FACP, FRACP, FASCO, President of Levine Cancer Institute |
| 9:00-10:00 a.m. | “American Indian Approaches to Cancer Equity”
Donald Warne, MD, MPH, Professor and Chair, Department of Public Health, North Dakota State University |
| 10:00-10:15 a.m. | Break |
| 10:15-11:15 a.m. | “Health Equity and Community Engagement”
Cornell P. Wright, MPA, Executive Director, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services |
| 11:15-12:15 p.m. | “Why Data Needs Narrative to Shrink Health Disparities”
Dhruv Khullar, M.D., M.P.P, Massachusetts General Hospital |
| 12:15-1:00 p.m. | Networking Lunch |
| 1:00-2:15 p.m. | “Flipping Cancer” Performance
Marie Garlock, PhD(C), a live performance created from research with communities facing advanced cancers |
| 2:15-2:30 p.m. | Break |
| 2:30-3:30 p.m. | “State of Hispanic Relations in the US”
Ximena Yanez-Poole, Ventanilla de Salud Coordinator, Consulate General of Mexico, Raleigh |
| 3:30-4:00 p.m. | Closing Remarks - Dr. Barbara Rimer, PhD, MPH, Dean, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health, President’s Cancer Panel, Institute of Medicine |