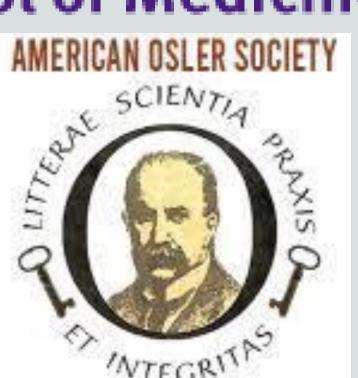


School of Medicine



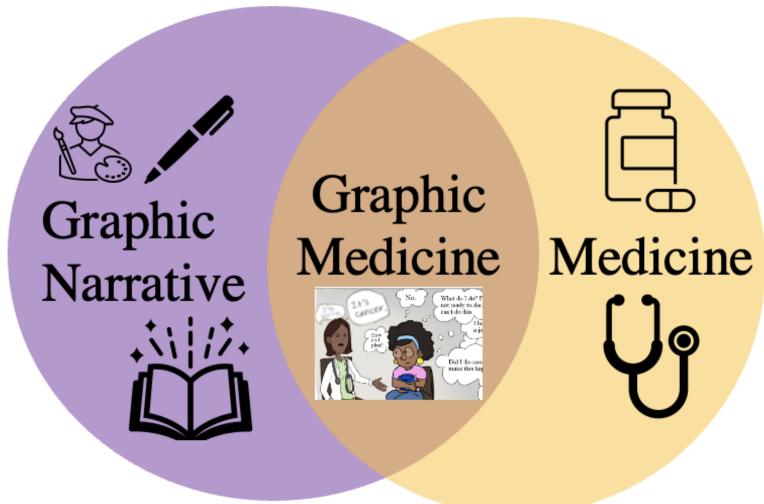
Coping and Chemotherapy: A Trilingual Graphic Medicine Approach to Oncology

Touro LCMC Health

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Background

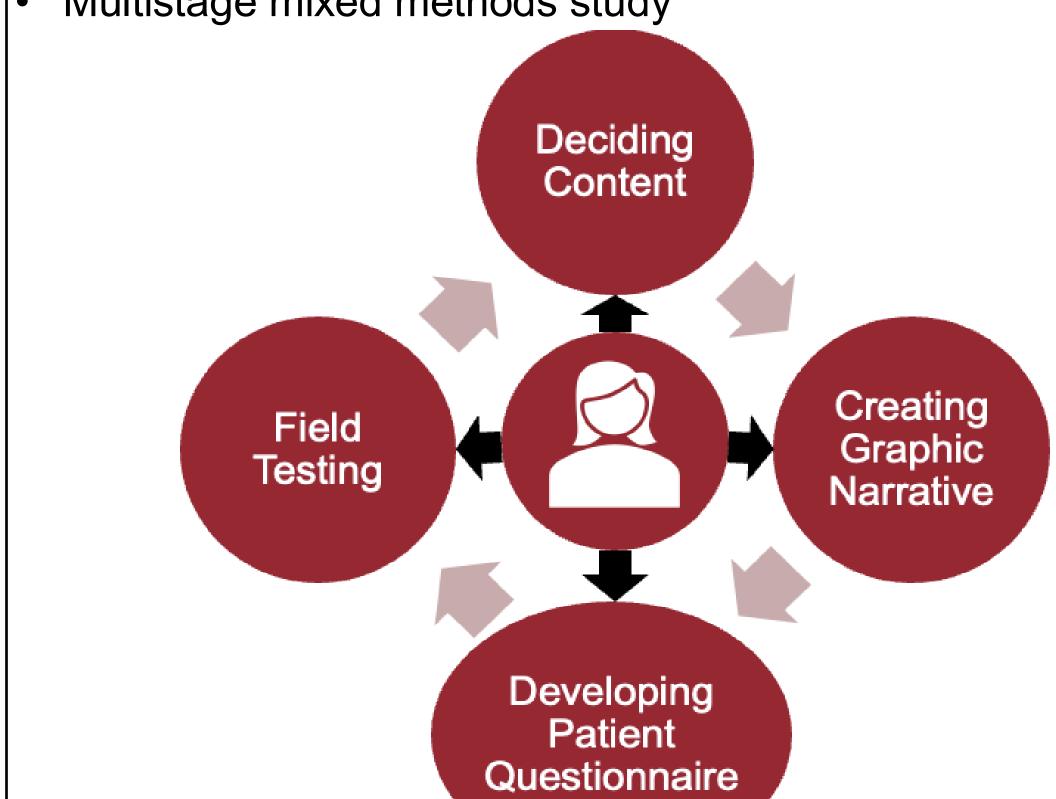
Graphic medicine combines the disciplines of medicine and graphic narratives



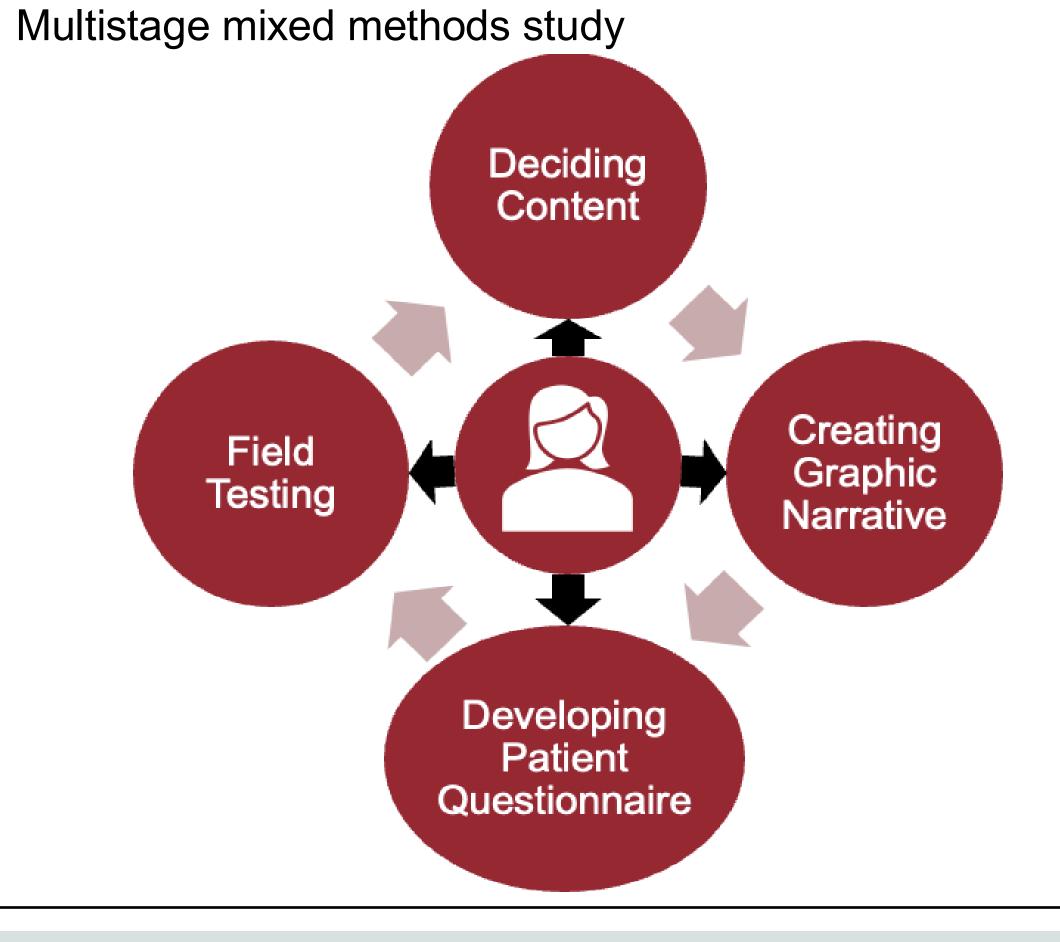
- Visual mediums may hold more appeal and help **simplify** and explain complex topics
- Information told through graphic medicine may be more accessible

Objectives & Study Design

- diagnosed cancer
- as a therapeutic and teaching tool in oncology clinics



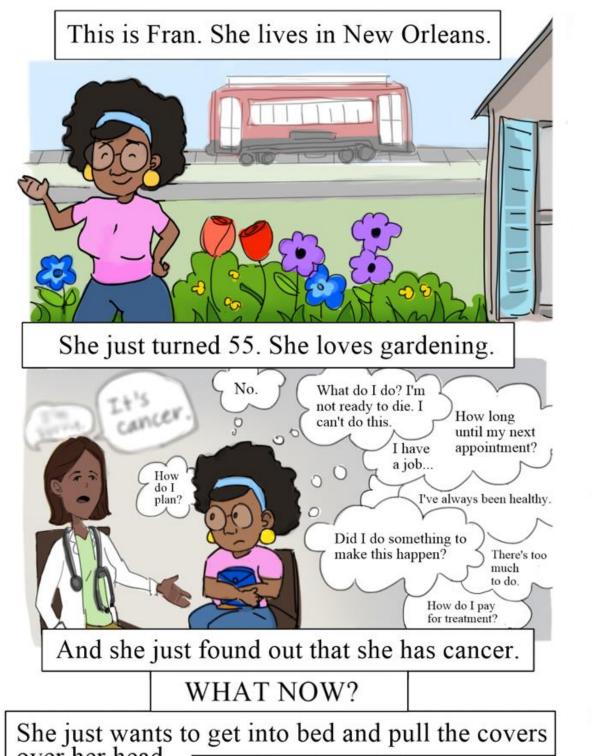
- To create a narrative about a patient with a newly
- To investigate the potential usefulness of graphic narrative

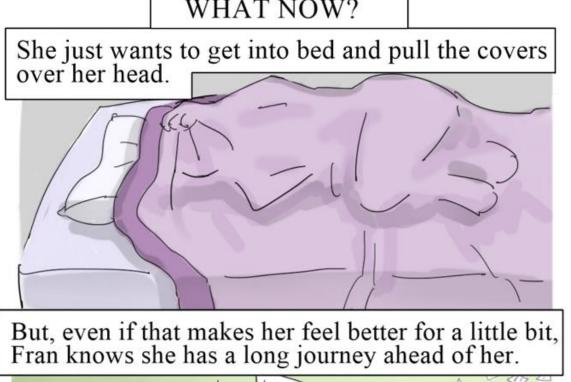


Feedback and Readability

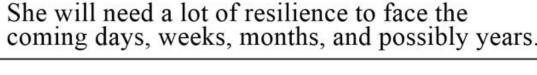
- **Positive feedback**
- **Areas for growth**
- Increase gender diversity
- Change physician's expression
- Add local resources
- Readability
- Flesch Reading Ease: 82.4 (easy to read)
- Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 3.7 (third grade)

Final Version of the Comic*







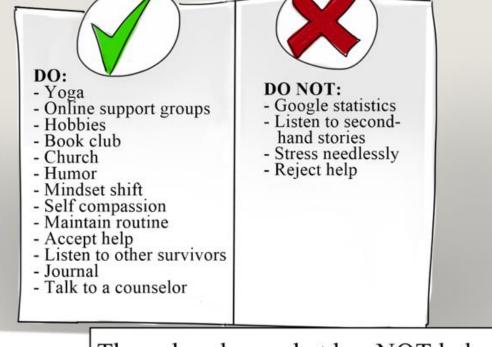




After a few weeks, Fran decides to join a local cancer support group. At first, she is nervous to go.

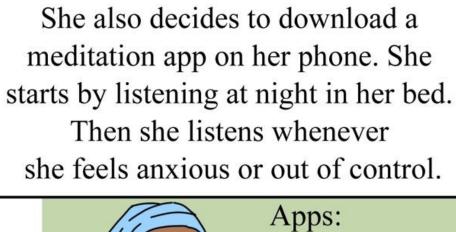


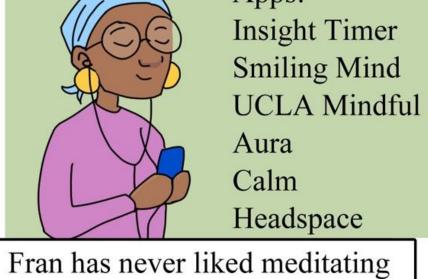
But she takes the leap and discovers that the other members are friendly, and sharing her story helps. Her new friends talk about what has helped them cope with their diagnosis and give tips on getting through therapy





Writing down her thoughts at the end of the day gives her time to self-reflect





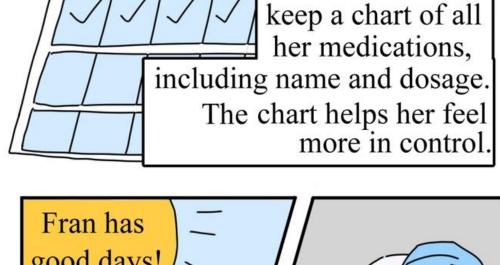
before, but to her surprise, it helps calm her mind

Fran keeps going to her doctor's appointments. It helps that she brings a family member or friend to



She and her family write down a list of questions to ask before every appointment. Whoever comes to the appointment helps Fran take notes so that she doesn't forget anything.

Fran also starts to





When these bad days come, Fran learns to reach out to her support network for help. She learns that the bad days are temporary.



She takes things one day at a time and reminds herself to be patient and kind with herself, even (especially) on the days when she just wants to stay in bed. The journey is still scary, but Fran has found coping mechanisms that work for her. Fran knows she is strong.



They also share what has NOT helped. *also available in Spanish and Vietnamese, including Patient Resources page

Results: Demographics

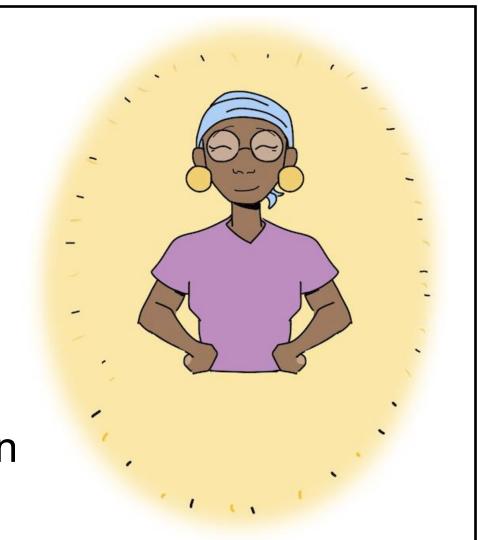
CHARACTERISTICS	N, %
Age	Range: 25 to 86 y.o. Mean: 63 y.o.
Race/Ethnicity	White (88, 57.9%) Black (48, 31.6%) Latino or Hispanic (16, 10.5%) Other (3, 1.9%)
Preferred Language	English (148, 96.7%) Spanish (5, 3.3%)
Cancer	Endometrial (75, 50.3%) Ovarian/fallopian tube (39, 26.2%) Cervical (15, 10.1%) Vaginal, vulvar, and other (20, 13.4%)
Stage	Stage I/II (46, 32.6%) Stage III/IV (48, 34.0%) Recurrent (16, 11.3%) Uncertain 931, 21.9%)

Results: Patient Questionnaire

RESPONSES	N (%)	
Relatability/Likability Enjoyment Relatability Sense of empowerment	120 (84.0%); p < 0.001 122 (85.4%); p < 0.001 100 (70.9%); p < 0.001	
Usefulness Coping mechanism Resources Expansion of knowledge	130 (91.6%); p < 0.001 98 (71.5%); p < 0.001 111 (78.7%); p < 0.001	
Anxiety	90 (58.4%); p < 0.001	

Results: Patient Comments

- 'It felt like me"
- "It made me **happ**y"
- "It gave me **hope**"
- "It is very helpful, good advice"
- "Simple; relatable"
- "It's relatable and positive"
- "Very informative"
- "Fran and I are the same hue"
- "The **comic was a good choice**, rather than just words"



Conclusion & Future Direction

Conclusion

- Patient centered, well received, readable, and relatable
- Helpful in reducing anxiety and providing information/resources
- Graphic medicine interventions are useful in an oncology setting

Future Direction

- 77.8% indicated interest in future graphic medicine pamphlets
- 49.1% were interested in a pamphlet on chemotherapy or radiation

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