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FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

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INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS



Alex Molasiotis, Prof

Prof. Alex Molasiotis is an academic and researcher in health sciences, currently serving as the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Education at the University of Derby, UK. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Oncology Nursing and holds visiting professorships at institutions including King's College London, the Karolinska Institute, and the University of Technology Sydney.



Eran Ben-Arye, MD, Prof

Eran Ben-Arye has an MD degree from the Faculty of Medicine of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. Prof. Ben-Arye is on the faculty of the Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, The Technion, and since 2022 serves as the Chairman, Department of family Medicine, in the Faculty of Medicine. Prof. Ben-Arye is the founder and director of the Integrative Oncology Program at Lin, Carmel, and Zebulun Medical Centers, Haifa, Israel. He has been the chairperson of the Israel Society for Complementary Medicine of the Israel Medical Association. He is the Primary Researcher of the Middle East Research Group in Integrative Oncology (MERGIO) within the Middle East Cancer Consortium (MECC) and is an elected member of the Society for Integrative Oncology (SIO) Board of Trustees and serves as the SIO Regional Ambassador to Europe and the Middle-East.



Jeannine M. Brant, Ph.D., APRN-CNS, AOCN, FAAN

Dr. Jeannine M. Brant, Ph.D., APRN-CNS, AOCN, FAAN, is an oncology clinical nurse specialist and Director of Clinical Science and Innovation at City of Hope Cancer Center in Duarte, California. Dr. Brant received a bachelor's degree from Montana State University, a master's degree in physiological nursing from the University of California at San Francisco, and a doctorate in cancer nursing from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. She is a past president of the Oncology Nursing Society. She is editor of the Journal of Advanced Practitioners in Oncology. She also serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Montana Geriatric Education Center, University of Southern Indiana and Montana College of Nursing, Bozeman.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS



Manal Abdul Majeed Hussain Al-Zadjali, RN. MSN. PhD

Manal Abdul Majeed Hussain Al-Zadjali is the Dean of the Higher Institute of Health Specialties, Oman. She is also the Secretary General of Oman Cancer Association. Dr. Manal has a PhD in Nursing and Healthcare Innovation and a Master degree in Nursing Science - Community Health Nursing from Arizona State University. She teaches in the Postgraduate Diploma in Community Health Nursing Practice Program- a program that she has developed. Dr. Manal is a volunteer in Oman Cancer Association for the past ten years. In addition, she is also a reviewer in several International Journals. Her research interest includes palliative care, healthcare workforce education and training, chronic diseases... etc. Further, Dr. Manal received the Oman Woman of the Year-2019 award in the category of Education.



Maryam Rassouli, Prof.

Prof. Maryam Rassouli is a professor of nursing at the University of Nizwa, Oman, where she is affiliated with the School of Nursing in the College of Health Sciences. Previously, she served as a full professor at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (SBMU) in Tehran, Iran, and held the position of Director General of Nursing Services. Dr. Rassouli is a member of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC) and the ISNCC Knowledge Development and Dissemination Committee (since 2022). She was also a member of the Iranian National Network of Nursing Research (2016-2021) and a founding board member of the Iranian Scientific Palliative Care Association under the Ministry of Health in Tehran. Additionally, she has been serving as a Temporary Adviser on Palliative Care for the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the World Health Organization (WHO) since 2019. Her research interests include palliative care, spirituality in healthcare, cancer care, mixed-method research, and scale development.



Funda Rohde, Assoc. Prof.

Assoc. Prof. Funda Rohde is a Palliative Care and Psychiatric Nurse. She works as a psychotherapist in her private practice in Germany. Ms Rohde is also an honorary lecturer in nursing departments and reputable institutions providing health and social work education. She collaborates nationally and internationally to develop psychiatric and palliative care nursing.

OP - 052

Marital and Family Relationships of Cancer Patients: A Qualitative Research

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Objective: The physical, emotional, financial and social problems experienced by cancer patients not only during the treatment process but also for many years after treatment have a significant impact on marital and family relationships. The burden of the disease causes restructuring not only of the individual but also of the spouse and the family system. Changes in the marital relationship can directly affect many processes from the perception of the disease to coping styles, from adaptation to treatment to psychological resilience. This study was planned to understand the experiences of cancer patients in marital and family relationships during the disease process, to reveal how these relationships are affected and how they change.

Materials-Methods: This study, which was conducted using qualitative research design, was selected and conducted by purposive sampling method. Between November 2023 and November 2024, 30 participants who were diagnosed with cancer, diagnosed with cancer, married, and treated in the haematology-oncology services of a public hospital were included in the study. Data were collected through semi-structured, in-depth interviews. The data were analysed using Colaizzi's interpretative phenomenological analysis method through NVivo15 software.

Results: The findings obtained from the qualitative phase were structured in three main themes and seven sub-themes. The main themes consist of emotional relationships and dynamics in marriage, sexual relationships and dynamics, and family relationships and dynamics. The findings obtained represent the views of cancer patients on marriage and family relationships.

Conclusion(s): Cancer patients experience significant transformations in marital and family relationships along with physical and emotional changes during the disease process. Relationship dynamics such as commitment, intimacy, care and sexuality between spouses are redefined; some relationships are strengthened while others are weakened. In this period when roles within the family are redistributed, the emotional and physical support provided by the spouse and close family members plays a decisive role in coping with the disease. Therefore, psychosocial support programmes should be developed to strengthen the marital and family relationships of cancer patients, and patients and their relatives should be supported to manage this process in a healthier way.

Keywords: Family Relationships, Marital Relationship, Cancer