

Presentation Title: Marriage After Cancer: State of the Science

Author: Sharon Manne, Ph.D., Fox Chase Cancer Center

Description: The majority of literature on the impact of cancer on families conceptualizes spouses as caregivers to patients with cancer and focuses on comparing distress levels of patients and spouses. In this talk, I will take the viewpoint that this singular focus on caregiving and making comparisons of distress levels misses the crucial issue of the ways that cancer affects the marital relationship and how couples negotiate the cancer experience together. I will also discuss the diagnosis of cancer in one partner as an opportunity for couples to grow closer, and I will discuss how the study of the marital relationship during and after cancer informs the larger literature on the dynamics of relationship intimacy in mid-life, informs theoretical formulations of social support, and provides important information regarding the efficacy of family-based psychological interventions.

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References:

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