Proposal to screen excerpts from the documentary Foreign Puzzle and a presentation on the importance of personal medical narratives from minority communities to raise awareness about cancer.

Foreign Puzzle is an intimate award winning documentary that captures the journey of an inspiring Mexican American dancer as she communicates the impermanence of life through dance while juggling the roles of a recently divorced parent of a 6-year-old, a choreographer and a primary school teacher amidst intensive treatments for breast cancer.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1NETJxudqw

"Foreign Puzzle is one of the most powerful and potentially most influential films that I've ever seen that could be used as an educational film in schools for social work and other helping professions across the country and internationally" - Elizabeth C. Pomeroy, Ph.D., LCSW, ACSW Professor, School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin



The story of a dancer, mother, teacher, human, confronted with the possibility of her own mortality through her journey with cancer, the film is about so much more than illness. - Cara Hagan, Associate Professor, Dance Studies, Appalachian State University

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in Hispanic/Latina women living in the U.S., as it is for all women in America, but the disease tends to affect Latina women at a younger age (premenopausal breast cancer) and is more aggressive in them than in many other populations. There are very few stories that highlight the Latino cancer experience. Foreign Puzzle documents 18 months in the life of Sharon and her son Dali. The film is a great tool to learn, raise awareness, improve understanding, and spark the conversation about breast cancer and fears in creative ways.

We would like to screen excerpts from the film at the conference and discuss the importance of personal narratives and storytelling in raising awareness, in cancer support and promoting healing.



Foreign Puzzle unravels the cancer experience for health care providers and the family. It captures the range of emotions that Sharon Marroquin experiences over 18 months as she processes the illness, its onslaught and comes to terms with the uncertainty and impermanence associated with it.



The film functions as an educational tool for family and friends and raises awareness about the decimation one continues to experience – physically, emotionally, mentally and socially – even after the first year of arduous chemotherapy and radiation treatments. It helps oncologists, nurses, psychologists, and social workers watch Sharon up close and see a perspective about patient life that is rarely shown to them.

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