

This presentation will introduce a unique and comprehensive music therapy program directed at attending to the biopsychosocial needs of oncology patients in a large hospital system. The structure and philosophy of this novel program, assessment strategies and dedicated music therapy protocols for cancer patients, as well as environmental music therapy will be highlighted.

We will address continuity of care in providing music psychotherapy for cancer patients with varied diagnoses and stages following them through radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and in-patient oncology contexts. In this context music therapy integrates with the allopathic medical team to provide holistic patient centered care. The program in radiation oncology is the first of its kind, and provides a first line protocolized intervention to all patients receiving radiation therapy based on a open referral from medical staff, and is synchronized to that of patients receiving concomitant or adjuvant chemotherapy. In radiation oncology, and chemotherapy, music therapy focuses on symptom management as well as interventions to palliate emotional and existential challenges, as well as the anxiety and depression that can accompany treatment. In addition, music psychotherapy is applied to pain management, and emotional distress that can appear during treatment. Experientials will be provided.

Environmental music therapy (EMT) is provided to modulate patients' perception of the hospital environment that is often associated with stress, fear, and other negative feelings and sensations. EMT is provided regularly in chemotherapy and radiation therapy suites. Participants will learn the theory and methodology behind EMT's ability to favorably change perception of the environment, and reduce patients', family members' and staff's anxiety, stress and pain in the oncology setting. A brief experiential of EMT session will be offered by the presenters.