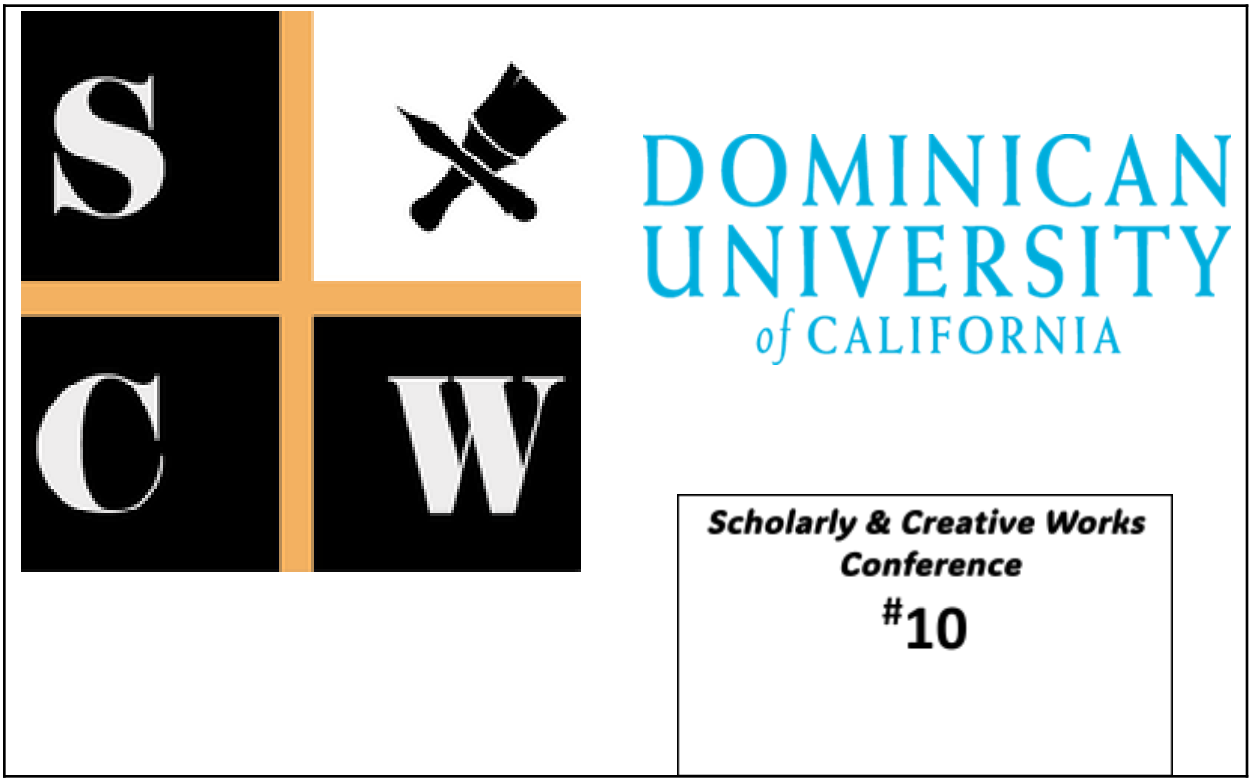


Presenter: Kareena Jakhu

Session & Time: Poster_V / 4:00 to 4:50pm

Room: Guzman Lecture Hall

Discipline: Nursing

Faculty Mentor: Kendra Hoepper

Digital Portfolio URL:

Title: The Psychosocial Effects of Chemotherapy in the Adolescent Population

Abstract:

Abstract

Background: During the adolescent stage (13-18), individuals go through role confusion and seek much of their validation from their fellow peers. Forming a strong sense of community is crucial in this stage of development as it helps with creating a foundation for who they want to become. Chemotherapy strips this aspect of socialization due to its ability to suppress the immune system. When socialization is taken away, adolescents face loneliness, which greatly

impacts their development. **Purpose:** The purpose of this research is to look into the adolescent population undergoing chemotherapy and help them aid the lack of socialization caused by chemotherapy. **Methods:** The adolescents will participate in surveys and questionnaires to help reflect the effectiveness of the community programs created to minimize isolation. The surveys will be easily accessible with the use of their smartphone, allowing them to reflect on their experience and provide feedback for the nurses. **Data Collection and Analysis:** This research has not been initiated yet, however the anticipated results are improved mental health outcomes within the adolescents, allowing for enhanced socialization with their peers during their treatment journey. **Conclusion:** Screening for feelings of loneliness is relevant to nursing to help improve individualized care with pediatric cancer patients, especially during this crucial time. This proposal will help with educating nurses on the psychosocial effects of chemotherapy in the adolescent population.

Key words: *chemotherapy or chemo or cancer treatment or oncology AND adolescents or teenagers or young adults or teen or youth AND psychosocial.*