

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

Resilience in Adolescents with Cancer: Impact of Cyberspace

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Cyberspace has changed the way adolescents interact with the world. Adolescents express themselves online through webpages, blogs, and social networking sites, which also allow them to stay connected to their peers. Peer social supports are important to adolescent development and coping abilities.

Adolescents with cancer report stress on their relationships with friends during the cancer diagnosis and treatment. Some of that stress may be due to physical separation from healthy peers during hospitalizations and treatments, as well as less reciprocity in the relationship. As more adolescents are moving online with personal webpages, blogs, and social networking sites, the relationships between adolescents with cancer and their healthy peers may become more accessible and therefore more supportive. The purpose of this study is to understand the role of cyberspace in resiliency from the perspective of adolescents with cancer.

This qualitative research study will involve a convenience sample of sixteen adolescent (14-to 21-years old) patients at the University of Rochester Medical Center diagnosed with cancer. A purposive sampling attempt will be made to recruit (1) equal numbers of patients currently under treatment and those recently finished with treatment (less than 5 years from diagnosis) and (2) equal numbers of patients participating in a support group and those not. The transcriptions from in-depth interview with each adolescent will be analyzed for themes that will better explain the role cyberspace plays in social support, coping, and resiliency.

Committee Chair:

Nancy P. Chin, PhD, MPH

Committee Members:

Jonathan Klein, MD, MPH

David Korones, MD

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

12:30PM – 1:00 PM

Helen Wood Hall, Room 4W301

EVERYONE IS WELCOME