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Introduction to Graphic Medicine

Brittany Heer

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Graphic Medicine

Brittany Heer, Health Sciences Librarian
Butler University Libraries
Agenda

1. Review definitions and research on graphic medicine
2. Learn how to integrate graphic medicine into the classroom
3. Sketch your own comic
Definitions and Research
An Evolving Identity

- Not a new concept!
- Green and Myers coined the term “graphic pathologies”
- Williams defined GM as “graphic memoir of illness and trauma”
- Callender et al describes GM as “an interdisciplinary field within the health humanities that encompasses the creation, use, and study of comics in medicine and health”


What is graphic medicine?

The use of comics to tell personal stories of illness and health.


So what does the research say?

- Stories appealing to emotions are more effective than pure data and statistics (Kearns & Kearns, 2020)
- “For students to develop into competent and caring professionals, it is crucial that they come to understand illness in all its complexity” (Green, 2013, p. 472)
- Empathy is critical in healthcare professionals, and GM can assist in this area (Sutherland et al, 2021)


**So Many Benefits!**

- Combining images with text activates the brain in ways that other channels do not
- Public health communication
- Patient compliance to treatment
- Aid patients in understanding an illness or caregiving role, soft skills
- Aid doctors in understanding the patient experience
- Encourage students to become careful observers, mimics the diagnostic practice of medicine
- Offers an opportunity for reflection

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How long will I be in the hospital?
What kind of anesthesia am I getting?
How will my normal routine be restricted?
How much discomfort will I have?
What kind of bandages will I have after surgery?
How should I care for the bandages after surgery?
When do I get the bandages off?
Will I have a scar?
How many lymph nodes are you taking out?
What are my chances of developing lymphedema?
Are there any side effects from surgery?
When should I come back for a follow-up visit?
What kind of care will I need after surgery?
How soon can I go back to my regular schedule?
Does Saint Vincents take Amex?
Or can I write a check?
“The Moment” by Sunny Liew

Coronavirus: COVID-19: Patient Information

What to Expect After Getting the Covid-19 Vaccine

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will help keep you from getting COVID-19.

cdc.gov/coronavirus

CDC: How to Wear a Mask

How to Wear a Mask

MedlinePlus Health Topics: Coronavirus Infections
Information for patients regarding COVID-19.

Medlineplus: COVID-19 Vaccines
COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) is an illness caused by a virus. This virus is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world. [As of January 2021], there are now two authorized and recommended vaccines to prevent COVID-19 in the United States. The vaccines are being used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug
Graphic Medicine in the Classroom
MK Czerwiec on Graphic Medicine in Instruction
Michael Green: Teaching with Comics
Green’s Fill in the Dialogue Exercise

Squier’s graphic medicine graduate-level seminar at Penn State, open to all students.

Sutherland and colleagues developed a graphic medicine seminar for post-graduate medical students to promote empathy in the clinic.


More GM Ideas

- Book clubs
- Journal clubs
- **NLM’s curriculum**
- Trivia nights
- Bibliotherapy
- Collaborative GM creation in the classroom
- What else?

Notable Titles
More Resources to Explore

- GraphicMedicine.org
- ComicNurse.com
- NLM’s Graphic Medicine Online Exhibit
- CreativeMedDoses.com
- Alice Jaggers on Graphic Medicine
- The Nib
- Cartoonist of Color Database
- Graphic Medicine Conference
- Graphic Medicine Facebook Group
- Library’s Graphic Medicine LibGuide


Sketch Your Own Comic!
“Creating comics also allows students to expose aspects of the “hidden curriculum” in medical education while simultaneously supporting values that matter—such as the importance of communicating clearly, working collaboratively, developing creative solutions to challenging problems, tolerating and embracing ambiguity, avoiding preconceptions, and recognizing the shared humanity between doctors and patients.”

Thank you!

Brittany Heer
bheer@butler.edu