I prefer: ORAL/ POSTER presentation (delete as appropriate)

**Title: Trauma Informed Care and Early Distress Identification in Oncology Settings**

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The abstract should be headed by a **title**, **name(s)** **and complete address (es) of the author(s).** Please underline the name of the author who will present the paper.

**Abstract (approximately 250-300 words limit)**

Cancer is not only a physical illness but also a source of substantial emotional and psychological trauma and distress for patients. Oncology-related trauma stems from the uncertainty of diagnosis, invasive treatments, and the potential threat to life, leading to emotional distress, anxiety, and in some cases, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Addressing this trauma

early is essential for patient well-being, as unresolved distress and trauma can exacerbate mental health challenges and hider treatment adherence. Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) offers a

framework to mitigate these issues by focusing on safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment in care settings. Organizational attention to trauma is critical, as health-

care environments that fail to address emotional distress can contribute to patient dissatisfaction, higher healthcare costs, and poorer outcomes. Oncology Social Workers (OSW) are professional that are positioned to lead the implementation of TIC due to their training in psychosocial care and trauma identification. OSW’s role in healthcare encompasses not just individual patient support, but also educating healthcare teams, advocating for system-wide changes, and creating trauma-informed practices that benefit both patients, staff, and organizations. This manuscript discusses the implementation of TIC in oncology settings, recommending the use of a Trauma-Informed Assessment Protocol, such as the Distress Thermometer (DT), to facilitate early identification and intervention of distress, ultimately improving patient outcomes and organizational effectiveness.

*Keywords:* Distress,cancer, cancer trauma, PTS, PTSD, Trauma Informed Care, Polyvagal Theory, Oncology Social Work

**Recent Publications:** Minimum 3 publications to be included (Not mandatory)

**Biography** **(150 words limit)**

I hold a Master and Doctor of Social Work from Barry University. With a strong foundation in clinical practice and extensive experience in medical hospital settings, including specialized oncology care, I am deeply committed to advancing the social work profession. My passion lies in addressing the complex psychosocial needs of patients facing distress, trauma, and stress in oncology healthcare environments.I am dedicated to fostering resilience, promoting well-being, and enhancing the quality of life for individuals and families navigating the challenges of cancer care. By integrating evidence-based approaches and a trauma-informed perspective, I strive to advocate for holistic and patient-centered care. My work is driven by a desire to improve systemic responses to the psychosocial dimensions of health and healing. Through my practice, I aim to elevate the role of social work in interdisciplinary healthcare teams and contribute to the advancement of compassionate, equitable care for all patients.

**Presenting Author Details and Photo**

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A person with long hair wearing a plaid jacket

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