**DANCE EDUCATORS LIVING WITH/THROUGH CANCER**

**CALL FOR COLLABORATORS/CO-AUTHORS**

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**Wayne State University**

*BACKGROUND*: In 2015 at the age of 56, I was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic prostate cancer. According to the Mayo Clinic, “Stage 4 prostate cancer is an uncommon diagnosis. Treatments may slow or shrink an advanced prostate cancer, but for most men, stage 4 prostate cancer isn't curable.” The oncologist informed my husband and daughter that I would not be leaving the hospital and to begin making arrangements. Now, six years later, I’m the only remaining participant in the original cancer clinical trial; unfortunately, the other 170 men have passed. Reflecting on my road to controlled remission, I realize that being a former dancer helped me survive in a number of ways. At the same time, I also see how my dancer-self contributed significantly to my late diagnosis—ignoring pain, muscling through, and “this will go away” attitude. I don’t want other dancers (current or former) or dance educators to go through what I have.

*CALL FOR COLLABORATORS/CO-AUTHORS*: For this project, if you are a cancer patient in treatment, or in partial, controlled, or complete remission (e.g., “no evidence of disease"), and you are interested in sharing your “living with cancer” story with other dance educators and researchers, I encourage you to consider participating in this project as a collaborating co-author. I anticipate that the project could/will generate a number of publications and conference presentations (journal articles, book chapters, conference papers).

 *PROPOSALS*: Based on the criteria above, please send a proposal including (a) your interest in this research project; (b) a summary of your experience with cancer; (c) what you hope to gain from work collaboratively with project team; and (d) a copy of your CV/Professional Record. **Please email to** **drisner@wayne.edu** **by 1 August 2021**. If you have questions, please email me.

Readings of Interest

'Dancing through the pain': How 'Bald Ballerina' Maggie Kudirka found resilience after a terminal cancer diagnosis, by Rosie Colosi <https://www.nbcnews.com/know-your-value/feature/dancing-through-pain-how-bald-ballerina-maggie-kudirka-found-resilience-ncna1257165>

“Professional dancer overcomes breast cancer thanks in part to early detection from a routine mammogram” <https://www.melrosewakefield.org/news/dancing-through-cancer/>

“A dancer’s battle with cancer: Chiara Valle’s Story” <https://thestoryofmedtech.org/story/dancers-battle-cancer-chiara-valles-story>

“Fighting cancer with dance” <https://www.ted.com/talks/ananda_shankar_jayant_fighting_cancer_with_dance?language=en>

Dancers Against Cancer <https://imadanceragainstcancer.org/>