Who’s in the room?

New England Graphic Medicine Conference, March 2020

Cathy Leamy • www.metrokitty.com • Twitter: @metrokitty
GOOD MORNING!

THANK YOU FOR CALLING THE KIDNEY CLINIC!

THIS IS CATHY!

get your flu shot! 😎
Who’s in the room?
What I’ll cover

1. Portrayal in graphic medicine publications

2. Participation in the graphic medicine community
Portrayal
Quantitative!
Which comics to examine?

- Comics format - not text with spot illustrations
- It’s about a health condition
- It’s about a healthcare worker
- It takes place in a healthcare setting
- Would I put this on a shelf of graphic medicine comics?
- Would it fit in at the graphic medicine conference marketplace?
How many comics total?

- 68 books
- 13 health ed publications
- 11 pamphlet-style comics ("floppies")
- 70 minis

Total: 162
What data to collect?

- For each publication:
  - Number of pages
  - Number of panels

- For each character in that publication:
  - Role
  - Name (if given)
  - Appearance - number of panels
  - Dialogue - number of panels
Ow! That’s a wall!
MAIN CASE - 80.
Wife - "she's 2 - 1.9"
Wow! That’s a plateau!
Quantitative: 48 comics examined

- 9 books
  - 6 memoir, 3 fiction
- 11 health ed publications
- 6 pamphlet-style comics (“floppies”)
  - 5 memoir, 1 fiction
- 23 minis
  - 22 non-fiction/memoir
  - 1 fiction
Visual shorthand and iconography

- Lab coat and clipboard
- White nurse cap
- Stethoscope around the neck
- Sitting behind a desk
- Man in short sleeve scrubs pushing a wheelchair
Visual shorthand pitfalls

- Non-doctors can wear labcoats
- Lots of health professionals wear scrubs
- Non-specific coding: “Clinician”, “Clinic staff in scrubs”
- Review by healthcare subject matter expert
Style challenges

**Panel 1:**
That morning at one, we walked me to the hospital.

**Panel 2:**
I'm going down the hall...
Where's my wife?!?
Character coding

- Handsome drink server
- Staff who came running
- Peppy classmate
- Donut/person
- Cartoonist with upset stomach
- *Home Alone* Macaulay Culkin
- Personified symptom (headache)
- Smoochy photo boy
- Mean nurse
- Manifestation of pancreas mass
- Tooth
- God
Qualitative!
Out of 162 comics ...
HE GETS REGULAR TREATMENT FOR HIS WOUNDS.

PLEASE HELP US—SHE'S SO SICK!

RECEPTION

BREAST CARE CENTER

CHECK IN HERE
But I was leaving my job and losing my insurance.

I didn't have time to wait for another referral.

and I'm just tired of it...

The doctor will see you now...

MR. HAMMOUDEH?
The doctor will see you now.
The doctor will see you now.

Dr. Rosoff will be right out.

Oh, uh, thanks...

Excuse me, Mr. Petro, but your surgery time has been moved up by an hour.
Cancer Vixen—Marisa Acocella Marchetto

12:51. We checked in at the Cancer Center Lobby.

This is Roy. He tells me what my schedule is, first I start with "Labs," which actually means blood test.

Labs first, honey. Where's mom?

She's coming later, thanks, Roy dear!
Back, Sack, & Crack (& Brain)—Robert Wells

R-ROBERT WELLS?
I'M SORRY, BUT DID YOU JUST SAY YOUR NAME IS ROBERT WELLS?

ERR, YES, THAT'S ME.
WHY IS SHE STARING AT ME LIKE THAT? HMM, SHE DOES LOOK KIND OF FAMILIAR...

OH, SHIT! IT'S TINA'S FRIEND, NATALEE!*
WHAT WERE THE CHANCES OF ME SEEING SOMEONE I KNOW HERE?

*TINA (NOT HER REAL NAME) WAS MY FIRST GIRLFRIEND, AND AT THIS POINT STILL MY ONLY GIRLFRIEND, EVEN THOUGH WE HAD ONLY GONE OUT FOR A FEW MONTHS AND HAD SPLIT UP AT THE BEGINNING OF 1988.
Drinking at the Movies—Julia Wertz

[Comic panel]

[Character A]: Systemic what?

[Character B]: Lupus, it's when your immune system attacks your joints and organs.

[Character A]: I ain't never heard of that.

[Character B]: Look, making up immune diseases at the ER so I can get the rash on my ass checked out isn't how I want to spend my day so trust me, it's renal.

[Character A]: You got a rash on your ass?!!
NURSE SIS IS AN AGGRESSIVE ADVOCATE FOR MOM IN THE SAME WAY SHERMAN WAS AN AGGRESSIVE ADVOCATE FOR THE UNION.

SHE CHALLENGES PHYSICIANS, ARGUES WITH NURSES, BULLIES STAFF.

WELL, WE DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY UP HERE! DOCTOR WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR MOTHER UNTIL SHE REVIEWS THE CHART AND PRIORIZES HER CASE!

*THIS IS A LIE.

I LOOK AROUND THE WAITING ROOM TO SIZE UP THE COMPETITION.

THEY'RE TOUCHSTONES OF TIME INVESTED. REMINDERS OF WHERE WE'VE BEEN. MODELS OF INCREMENTAL PROGRESS TOWARD A GOAL.

READY?

OH YEAH.

REBUILDING A PICTURE, TOGETHER, ONE TINY PIECE AT A TIME.
OKAY, SIR, I GOT YOU DOWN FOR SAME TIME NEXT WEEK.

CELESTE, I'M NO LONGER IN THE SERVICE. WHY DO YOU CALL ME "SIR"?

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
The Bad Doctor and The Lady Doctor—Ian Williams
Fear of Failure—Ian Williams

I bet she booked that week deliberately to get at you.

She knows you have responsibilities.

It won’t have been deliberate, she’s not going to know when half term is.

Hmph, she’ll have known all right.

How could you not know when half term was? The selfish madam!
Qualitative: 34 publications

- Seen, not heard: 13
- Heard, not seen: 7
- Seen and heard: 14
- Meaningful: 8
Participation
Do they want in?
Why?
Challenges

- **Social**
  - Status and hierarchy

- **Logistics**
  - Time
  - Managerial support
  - Care commitments (childcare, eldercare)
  - Cost of event participation
What can we do?
Active outreach

- Not just “call for entries” or “registration is open”
- Reach out, do the footwork, find people
- Make them feel welcomed, invited, and safe
Collaborations

https://www.cartoonstudies.org/css-studio/cartoonist-veteran-project/
Start a conversation

- Those of you who work in healthcare: Just chat?
In Closing...
In hospitals, housekeepers are truly the ‘keepers of the house’

By NEIL PROSE and RAY BARFIELD / FEBRUARY 5, 2020

https://www.statnews.com/2020/02/05/hospital-housekeepers-truly-keepers-of-the-house/
Thank you!

Cathy Leamy  •  www.metrokitty.com  •  Twitter: @metrokitty