



# Social Dimensions of Health Institute Seminar



**Tuesday 10th July, 2012**  
**between 4pm and 5.30pm**

led by

**Catherine Marshall**

Research Professor  
Educational Psychology  
Northern Arizona University

**Cancer rehabilitation  
and family-focused  
preventive intervention**

This seminar will be held in

**Baxter 1.36**  
**Tower Building**  
**University of Dundee**

**ALL WELCOME**

If you would like to attend then please contact  
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Social Dimensions of Health Institute



Catherine A. Marshall, Ph.D. is a research professor in the department of Educational Psychology at Northern Arizona University. Dr. Marshall is also a Senior Scholar with the Center of Excellence in Women's Health, the University of Arizona (UA). She holds an adjunct professor position at the Griffith Health Institute, Griffith University, Australia.

Beginning in 2004, Dr. Marshall's work has focused on cancer as a chronic illness, how cancer may result in disability and/or affect employment and productivity, and the impact of the cancer experience on the family. She is a Member of the UA Arizona Cancer Center (AZCC) as an Associate Investigator, Cancer Prevention and Control, Biobehavioral and Social Sciences Research and Psycho-social Oncology Work Group, as well as an Affiliated Scholar, AZCC Cancer Health Disparities Institute. In April 2007 she received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for Individual Senior Fellowship. Funded by the Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, and administered by UA, this award supported her research, *Cancer Control and the Influence of Family* for two years, and provided advanced training in psychosocial oncology.

Through a 1997 Fulbright Scholar award, Dr. Marshall was able to work in Oaxaca, Mexico; her research in Oaxaca, investigating the needs and resources of indigenous people with disabilities, was also sponsored for six years by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). Additionally, in 1997, Dr. Marshall received a National Council on Rehabilitation Education Outstanding Researcher of the Year award for research with American Indian families and chronic illness/disability. She has more than 20 years of experience in developing and carrying out research protocols within indigenous and ethnically-diverse communities.

Dr. Marshall is the founder and president of the non-profit organization, the Women's International Leadership Institute (WILL; <http://www.wili.org>), the purpose of which is to benefit low-income women seeking to improve their educational and economic status.

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Rehabilitation philosophy embraces the importance of involving family when coping with a chronic illness such as cancer. Rehabilitation principles acknowledge the importance of educational resources, skills training, and strength-based psychosocial support as components of interventions with psychosocial and/or employment goals. *Un Abrazo Para La Familia*, [A Hug for the Family] was developed by applying the principles of rehabilitation to cancer education and psychosocial oncology, with development based in formative qualitative research, and acknowledging the role of culture and social class as central for families facing cancer. As much of the literature regarding interventions with families facing cancer is specific to well-educated and affluent research participants, providing questionable external validity for use with low-income co-survivors, I will discuss *Un Abrazo* as an effective model of education, information-sharing, and skill-building for use with low-income co-survivors of cancer. The implementation of this work was carried out during 2009-2011 as a campus-community partnership between the University of Arizona's Center of Excellence in Women's Health and El Rio Community Health Center in Tucson, Arizona. My goal in presenting this work is contribute to the discussion of how family-focused cancer rehabilitation can serve as preventative intervention for co-survivors. I seek to utilize global expertise in addressing the gap in our understanding of how to best contribute to the elimination of health disparities impacting low-income and ethnically-diverse populations.