My project partners with units within C. S. Mott Children’s Hospital to unveil the depth and diversity of healthcare services for pediatric patients. The objective is to collect personal narratives from children and their families. In consultation with the Max Warburg Courage Curriculum, I am studying the complexities of trauma and as well as services that aid patients. Mott Child Life Specialists, Hospital Teachers, Family Advisors, and Volunteer Coordinators offer training for this endeavor. My methods include a literature survey and direct learning about perspectives of staff, patients and families. I focus on courage and personal health care maps asking children to report in film, writing, and photography. Supporting this documentation, books and articles on trauma and recovery within pediatric settings help contextualize the investigation. Representations of hospital settings for young readers expand my understanding of the need for self-expression. For my results, I investigated the impact of my research upon U-M inpatient services and child life specialists. Overall, surveying stories and recording patient experiences offer an opportunity to translate findings to a broader audience. Both show how bravely patients and families confront challenges in a clinical and often frightening environment.

References

Abstract
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Objective
To collect personal narratives of patients at U-M Medical Systems: how do patients of different ages experience trauma and show courage?

Methods
Training: volunteer orientation; shadowing Child Life Specialist Marissa Beltowski and Child Educator Brenda Henne.
Interview Planning: Patients and families report daily routines, thoughts, feelings, and experiences in their care web and within the hospital.

Background
Max Warburg Courage Curriculum
“Designed to strengthen literacy skills of students and invite educators and participating schools to explore the idea of courage in literature, in their own lives, and within the broader community.”

Conclusions
The perspectives of patients on care taking and health facilitation offer insights on coping with illness and treatment. Mott staff now look forward to implementing Courage Curriculum prompts in a pediatric setting. Given the chance to tell their stories, patients and families may reveal undiscovered healing expressions of bravery and resilience.

Courage in Pediatric Stories
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1980-1991

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