

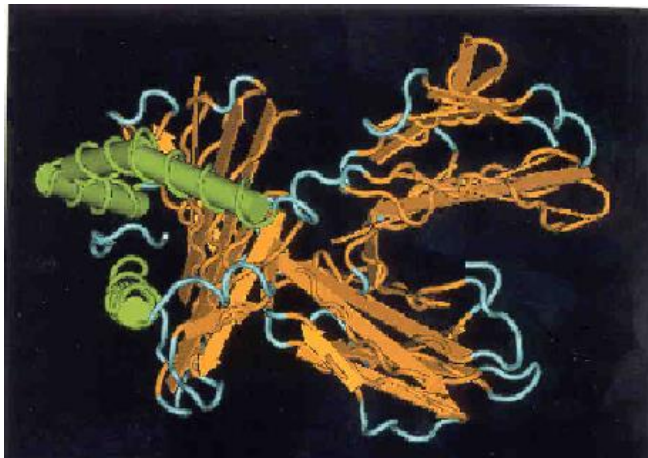
humanscape: image, metaphor, narrative

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humanscape was set up by the artist Andrea Duncan and Professor Ghulam Muffi and his team in Haemato-oncology at King's College Hospital. The project worked in collaboration with patients and staff to explore the human nature of the serious illness of leukaemia in visual and textual languages. The languages of a large London teaching hospital are culturally diverse. They are also layered by the complexity of contemporary medical care: technical, ethical, palliative, biochemical and pharmacological. Everyone with leukaemia faces the cryptic terminologies in which the diagnosis is dressed and deals with the noisy machinery, the clinical spaces, the sharp instruments, the cold equipment and the overpowering heat in a public, unfamiliar environment.



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humanscape's collaborations between patients and the artist uncovered material which inhabits a borderline between personal and experiential record. In the three years of the project, something of the complexity and individuality of leukaemia experience has been expressed visually and textually, using metaphor to develop extensions to the specialist languages of illness and recovery. **humanscape** has offered a space for an under-explored area of human experience, not much talked about in public. The work includes a large group project 'wall pad' installed in 2000. Saturated colour panels were placed in a long communicating corridor. Patients, visitors and staff were invited to draw on these panels. Over the year, hundreds of images, personal messages, poems and prayers were drawn on the panels. The texts were in many languages and included the work of children, teenagers, mothers, fathers and grandparents. See the website, www.humanscape.org.uk

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