

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Derry-Vick, Heather

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): hmderry

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Member, Center for Discovery and Innovation, Hackensack Meridian Health

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Ohio Wesleyan University	B.A.	05/2010	Psychology; Neuroscience
Ohio State University	M.A.	12/2012	Psychology
Ohio State University	Ph.D.	08/2017	Psychology
Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC	Predoctoral Internship	08/2017	Clinical health psychology
Weill Cornell Medical College	Postdoctoral	09/2020	Behavioral Geriatrics

A. Personal Statement

I am a behavioral researcher with training in clinical health psychology, laboratory-based biobehavioral research, and clinical research settings. My growing research program addresses the ways in which stress impacts health and healthcare experiences during cancer care [1], as well as physiological mechanisms (e.g., inflammation) underlying risk for cancer and cancer progression [2]. A significant focus of my current research is working to incorporate evidence-based stress management strategies to help advanced cancer patients manage anxiety while awaiting scan results; this line of work and key training is supported by a Pathway to Independence (K99/R00) award from National Cancer Institute. As a psychologist, my research is also informed by experience working on healthcare teams, including delivering evidence-based mental health treatment in primary care, geriatric rehabilitation, and skilled nursing facility settings to adults with chronic illness. I have specialized graduate-level training in biobehavioral methods from the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research at Ohio State University that enables investigating mind-body mechanisms and biomarkers relevant to stress. As a T32 Postdoctoral Fellow at Weill Cornell Medicine, I completed additional research training in aging and serious illness. During this time, I gained experience translating psychological science to address research questions in clinical settings, including studying the impact of anxiety on cancer patients' accuracy regarding recent scan result discussions, links between depression and adverse aging-related outcomes among older adults with HIV, and leading clinical research with patients with complex symptoms [3]. These experiences and my research to date have prepared me to lead research at the intersection of health psychology, psycho-oncology, and aging, with the overall goal of enhancing quality of life among those living with and beyond cancer and other chronic conditions.

Ongoing and recently completed projects that I would like to highlight include:

NCI K99 CA245488

Derry (PI)

09/07/2020 – 09/30/2021

Leveraging behavioral science to improve patient understanding of advanced cancer

American Psychological Foundation Visionary Grant

Derry and Glesby (Co-PIs)

09/26/2018 – 09/25/2020 (NCE)

Biopsychosocial pathways in aging with HIV: Investigating links between depression, stigma, inflammation, and health risks

NIMH R21 MH121886

Maciejewski and Prigerson (PIs) Role: Co-investigator

01/01/2020 – 12/31/2021

Automated Detection of Suicide Attempt Risk among Bereaved Individuals

NIA T32 AG049666

Reid and Prigerson (PIs) Role: Postdoctoral Fellow

09/05/2017 – 09/04/2020

The Weill Cornell Medical College Research Training Program in Behavioral Geriatrics

Citations:

1. **Derry, HM**, Maciejewski, PK, Epstein, AS, Shah, MA, LeBlanc, TW, Reyna, V, Prigerson, HG, (2019). Associations between anxiety, poor prognosis, and accurate understanding of scan results among advanced cancer patients. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 22(8), 961-965. PMID: PMC6685182.
2. **Derry, HM**, Johnston, CD, Burchett, CO, Brennan-Ing, M, Karpiak, S, Zhu, YS, Siegler, EL, Glesby, MJ. (in press). Links between inflammation, mood, and physical function among older adults with HIV. *Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. PMID: 33580236
3. **Derry HM**, Lief L, Woubeshet N, Schenck EJ, Kakarala S, LaFond E, Berlin DA, Prigerson HG. Peritraumatic Stress Symptoms during Early Post-ICU Recovery. (2021). *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*, 18(2): 364–367. PMID: PMC7869785.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

Positions and Scientific Appointments

2021-present Assistant Member, Center for Discovery and Innovation, Hackensack Meridian Health
2017-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine
2016-2017 Predoctoral Clinical Health Psychology Intern, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center
2010-2016 Graduate Student/Research Assistant, Stress and Health Lab, Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research, Ohio State University
2008-2009 Intern, Delaware County General Health District

Other Experiences and Professional Memberships

2019-2020 Staff Psychologist (part-time), CHE Behavioral Health Services
2018- Licensed Psychologist, New York State (License number: 023019)
2018- Member, Gerontological Society of America
2013- Member, American Psychosomatic Society
2012- Member, Society of Behavioral Medicine
Ad-hoc journal reviewer for: *Biological Psychiatry*; *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*; *Health Psychology*; *Cancer*; *Psycho-oncology*; *Psychoneuroendocrinology*; *Pain Medicine*

Honors

2021 NCI Data Viz + Cancer Innovation Lab workshop participant
2021 Society of Behavioral Medicine “Leading the Narrative” award for public-facing web article
2020 Harvard Medical School’s Research Methods in Supportive Oncology workshop participant
2020 Selected for American Psychosomatic Society Young Investigator Colloquium and travel award (conference cancelled due to pandemic)
2018 RAND Summer Institute participant and travel award recipient
2014-2015 Pelotonia Graduate Fellowship, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Ohio State University, competitive award covering tuition and stipend to train promising cancer scientists at OSU
2014 Graduate Associate Teaching Award, Ohio State University Graduate School’s highest recognition of GTA teaching
2010-2011 & 2015-2016 Distinguished University Fellowship, Ohio State University Graduate School, awarded based on academic merit to cover tuition and stipend

2010	Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award, Department of Psychology, Ohio Wesleyan University, awarded based on academic performance, professional potential, and merit
2009	Harry Bahrick Professional Development Award, Department of Psychology, Ohio Wesleyan University

C. Contributions to Science

Topic #1: Impact of stress on patients' understanding of cancer-related information

Basic behavioral science suggests that stress and anxiety interfere with cognitive function. In a series of analyses and review papers, I have begun to translate these findings to determine how stress and anxiety impact patient understanding in clinical settings. In an archival analysis, we observed that advanced cancer patients with higher anxiety were less likely to report their recently-discussed scan results accurately compared with those who were less anxious. I synthesized existing research to highlight potential clinical applications, including suggesting tools for clinicians based upon psychological science, and am designing and conducting a current study on this topic.

- a. **Derry, HM**, Maciejewski, PK, Epstein, AS, Shah, MA, LeBlanc, TW, Reyna, V, Prigerson, HG, (2019). Associations between anxiety, poor prognosis, and accurate understanding of scan results among advanced cancer patients. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 22(8), 961-965. PMID: PMC6685182.
- b. **Derry, HM**, Reid, MC, Prigerson, HG, (2019). Advanced cancer patients' understanding of prognostic information: Applying insights from psychological research. *Cancer Medicine*, 8(9): 4081-4088. PMID: PMC6675734.
- c. **Derry, HM**, Epstein AS, Lichtenthal, WG, Prigerson, HG, (2019). Emotions in the room: Common emotional reactions to discussions of poor prognosis and tools to address them. *Expert Review of Anticancer Therapy*, 19(8): 689-696. PMID: PMC6709526.

Topic #2: Evaluating bidirectional links and modifiers of the depression-inflammation relationship

Elevated inflammation prompts depressive symptoms for a subset of patients. In several analyses and reviews drawing on both mechanistic and applied studies, we illustrated the bi-directional relationships between depression and inflammation, summarized possible interventions for mitigating inflammation, and identified "for whom" these links appear to be strongest. Taken together, these works show that individuals experiencing various stressors (e.g., early life stress, low subjective social status) and with heightened depressive symptoms are at risk for chronic inflammation, which could impact age-related changes and comorbidity risk.

- a. **Derry, H.M.**, Johnston, C.D., Brennan-Ing, M., Karpiak, S., Burchett, C.O., Zhu, Y.S., Siegler, E.L. and Glesby, M.J. (in press). Childhood sexual abuse history amplifies the link between disease burden and inflammation among older adults with HIV. *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity-Health*, PMID: PMC8474623.
- b. **Derry, HM**, Johnston, CD, Burchett, CO, Brennan-Ing, M, Karpiak, S, Zhu, YS, Siegler, EL, Glesby, MJ. (in press). Links between inflammation, mood, and physical function among older adults with HIV. *Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. PMID: 33580236
- c. Kiecolt-Glaser, JK, **Derry, HM**, & Fagundes, CP, (2015). Inflammation: Depression fans the flames and feasts on the heat. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 172(11), 1075- 1091. PMID: 26357876.
- d. **Derry, HM**, Fagundes, CP, Andridge, R, Glaser, R, Malarkey, WB, & Kiecolt- Glaser, JK, (2013). Lower subjective social status exaggerates interleukin-6 responses to a laboratory stressor. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 38(11), 2676–2685. PMID: PMC3812336.

Topic #3: Investigating effects of lifestyle factors and interventions on cognitive function

Observational studies show that being physically active and socially connected affords cognitive benefits. Our team applied this information to investigate the impact of lifestyle/complementary interventions on subjective and objective cognitive function; I contributed to data collection, study design, and analyses for empirical studies on this topic. The findings contribute to the larger literature showing cognitive benefits of lifestyle interventions for at-risk populations, as well as considerations and recommendations when conducting cognitive testing in medically ill populations.

- a. **Derry, HM**, Johnston, CD, Burchett, CO, Siegler, EL, and Glesby, MJ. (2020). Gait speed is associated with cognitive function among older adults with HIV. *Journal of Aging and Health*, 32(10):1510-1515. PMID: PMC7768797.

- b. **Derry, HM**, Jaremka, LM, Bennett, JM, Peng, J, Andridge, R, Shapiro, C, Malarkey, WB, Emery, CF, Layman, R, Mrozek, E, Glaser, R, & Kiecolt-Glaser, JK, (2015). Yoga and self-reported cognitive problems in breast cancer survivors: a randomized controlled trial. *Psycho-oncology*, 24, 958–966. PMID: PMC4405403.
- c. Jaremka, LM, **Derry, HM**, Bornstein, R, Peng, J, Belury, MA, Andridge, RR, Malarkey, WB & Kiecolt-Glaser, JK, (2014). Omega-3 supplementation and loneliness- related cognitive problems: Secondary analyses of a randomized controlled trial. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 76, 650-658. PMID: PMC4288961.
- d. Prakash, RS, Janssen, AL, & **Derry, HM**, (2016). Neuropsychological Assessment in Health Populations. In Y. Benyamini, M. Johnston, & V. Karademas (Eds), *Assessment in Health Psychology*, Vol 2, (pp. 213-226). Göttingen/Boston: Hogrefe.

Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/heather.derry.1/bibliography/54539513/public/>