

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Amaro, Christina Marie

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

POSITION TITLE: Instructor of Pediatrics

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	END DATE MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Loyola University Chicago	BS	05/2011	Psychology
University of Kansas	MA	12/2015	Clinical Child Psychology
University of Kansas	PHD	12/2019	Clinical Child Psychology
Nemours/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children	Resident	08/2019	Pediatric Psychology
Nemours/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children	Postdoctoral Fellow	08/2020	Pediatric Psychology (Clinical Fellowship)
Boston University & Nemours Children's Health	Postdoctoral Fellow	08/2022	Pediatric Psychology (Research Fellowship)

A. Personal Statement

My specific research expertise positions me well to carry out the proposed project, which aims to characterize key informants' preferences and perceptions on digital health interventions broadly and single-session interventions specifically could overcome existing barriers to implementing the Psychosocial Standard of Care for adolescent siblings of youth with cancer. My research focuses on the role of social-ecological factors, particularly the family context, in adjustment to pediatric health outcomes as well as the evaluation and development of family-centered programs. My current research has primarily focused on youth and families impacted by pediatric cancer and sickle cell disease; however, I have conducted research in the context of chronic medical conditions more broadly including congenital heart disease, weight management, and spina bifida. Furthermore, I am also a licensed clinical psychologist in Delaware (#B1-0011342) and have clinical expertise and training in the delivery of evidence-based interventions with youth and families, which will inform the development of the proposed single-session intervention for siblings of youth with cancer. The proposed project incorporates my research expertise in: (1) understanding the role of social-ecological factors in family adjustment to pediatric health conditions and outcomes; (2) psychosocial adjustment and support for siblings of youth with chronic conditions; (3) evaluation of interventions and programs to support children, adolescents, and their families; and (4) professional issues within health service psychology, including team processes, mentoring, and supervision. As PI, I will oversee all aspects of this project design and implementation, and I will closely collaborate with my mentors and collaborators.

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

Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation /

01/05/2023-01/04/2024

American Psychosocial Oncology Society Early Investigator Award

Community Engagement in Developing a Web-Based Single-Session Psychosocial Intervention for Adolescent Siblings of Youth with Cancer

This qualitative study seeks to characterize community members' preferences for digital health interventions and describe preferences for a single-session intervention for adolescent siblings of youth with cancer.

Role on Project: Principal Investigator

Nemours Biomedical Research Grant

Alderfer (Co-PI)

07/01/20-03/31/23

Nemours Children's Health

Psychosocial Risk and Adjustment of Young Siblings of Children with Cancer

This longitudinal pilot study examines trajectories of risk and adjustment of young siblings (ages 3-7) of youth with cancer within the first-year post-diagnosis.

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

R03 CA259898 Long (PI)

03/01/21-08/31/23 (NCE)

NIH/NCI

SibACCESS: Developing a Telehealth Intervention to Address Unmet Psychosocial Needs of Siblings of Children with Cancer

This research aims to develop and pilot test a group-based telehealth program targeting posttraumatic stress in siblings of youth with cancer.

Role: Postdoctoral fellow

R01 HL141774 Garg, Kavanaugh (MPIs)

05/16/19-02/28/23

NIH/NHLBI

Understanding and Addressing the Social Determinants of Health for Families of Children with Sickle Cell Anemia within Pediatric Hematology

This mixed-methods study aims to understand how social determinants of health (SDoH) impact the ability of families of children with sickle cell anemia to manage this life-threatening disease, and to apply these findings to adapt and implement a previously tested, efficacious SDoH screening and referral system.

Role: Postdoctoral Fellow

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments and Honors

Positions and Scientific Appointments

- 2023- Board Member, Sibling Partnership for Advocacy, Research, and Care (SPARC)
- 2023- Member, International Society for Research on Internet Interventions
- 2023- Member, International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies
- 2023- Member, Society of Behavioral Medicine
- 2022- Instructor of Pediatrics, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
- 2022- Editorial Board, *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*
- 2021- Member, American Psychosocial Oncology Society
- 2020-2022 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Boston University & Nemours Children's Health
- 2020- Social Media Chair, *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*
- 2020- Member, Society of Pediatric Psychology Anti-Racism Workforce Group
- 2019-2020 Abstract Reviewer, Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference
- 2018- Member, Delaware Psychological Association
- 2017-2019 Trainee Member, Sibling Partnership for Advocacy, Research, & Care in Childhood Cancer
- 2015-2017 Student Advisory Board, Society of Pediatric Psychology
- 2015-2016 Graduate Student Representative, University of Kansas College's Committee on Graduate Studies
- 2015-2016 Student Representative, Admissions Committee, KU Clinical Child Psychology Program
- 2014-2017 Editorial Assistant, *Handbook of Pediatric Psychology* (5th Edition)
- 2014-2015 Principal Investigator, Beans & Greens Program Evaluation, Menorah Legacy Foundation
- 2013-2018 Graduate Research Assistant, University of Kansas
- 2011- Member, American Psychological Association Divisions 37, 53, & 54
- 2010-2013 Research Coordinator, Loyola University Chicago
- 2008-2011 Research Assistant, Loyola University Chicago

Honors

- 2022 Invited Participant, Research Methods in Supportive Oncology Workshop, Harvard Medical School (funded by the National Cancer Institute)
- 2021 Invited Participant, NIH Proposal Academy, University of Delaware
- 2021 Invited Participant, Program for Early Research Career Development, Boston University
- 2021 Trainee Presentation Award, American Psychological Association Convention, Society of Pediatric Psychology
- 2017 KU Women for KU Women Award, University of Kansas

2014	Graduate Studies Travel Award, University of Kansas
2011	Thomas M. Kennedy Award for Outstanding Service, Loyola University Chicago
2010	Gannon Scholars Women in Leadership Award, Loyola University Chicago
2009-2011	Provost Fellowship, Loyola University Chicago
2007-2011	Rambler Award for Leadership, Loyola University Chicago

C. Contribution to Science

1. The role of social-ecological factors in family adjustment to pediatric health conditions and outcomes. My research has examined various social-ecological factors, particularly the family context, in youth and family adjustment to pediatric health conditions as well as how these factors influence health outcomes. Furthermore, I am collaborating on an NIH-funded R01 mixed-methods study to understand and address social determinants of health in pediatric sickle cell disease. Previously, I examined social-ecological factors (e.g., individual, social, family) related to adjustment in youth and young adults with spina bifida.
 - a. **Amaro, C. M.**, Blakey, A. O., Sandler Eilenberg, J., Garg, A., Kavanagh, P., Drainoni, M., & Long, K. A. (2021, August). Family impact and involvement in pediatric sickle cell disease. In **C. M. Amaro** (Chair), *A multisystemic approach to improving care in pediatric sickle cell disease* [Symposium]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Virtual. *Society of Pediatric Psychology, APA Trainee Presentation Award Winner.
 - b. Blakey, A. O., Eilenberg, J. S., **Amaro, C. M.**, Kavanagh, P., Garg, A., Drainoni, M., & Long, K. A. (2021, April). *Links between social ecology and caregivers' daily disease-management in pediatric sickle cell anemia* [Poster presentation]. Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference, Virtual. *Society for Pediatric Psychology Hem/Onc/BMT Special Interest Group Poster Award Winner.
 - c. Murray, C. B., **Amaro, C. M.**, Devine, K. A., Psihogios, A. M., Murphy, L. K., & Holmbeck, G. N. (2015). Observed macro- and micro-level parenting behaviors during preadolescent family interactions as predictors of adjustment in emerging adults with and without spina bifida. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology, 40*, 18-32. doi:10.1093/jpepsy/jsu030
 - d. Devine, K. A., Holbein, C. E., Psihogios, A. M., **Amaro, C. M.**, & Holmbeck, G. N. (2012). Individual adjustment, parental functioning, and perceived social support in Hispanic and non-Hispanic white mothers and fathers of children with spina bifida. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology, 37*, 769-778. doi:10.1093/jpepsy/jsro83

2. Psychosocial adjustment and support for siblings of children with chronic conditions. Although chronic medical conditions impact the entire family, less research has been dedicated to siblings of youth with chronic conditions. There are also a multitude of barriers that may prevent siblings from receiving psychosocial supports and addressing their unmet needs. My research has focused on better understanding siblings' adjustment to chronic illness, including pediatric cancer and congenital heart disease. I am currently leading a Nemours-funded pilot study to examine factors influencing the psychosocial adjustment, including cancer-related traumatic stress, of young siblings of children with cancer. This line of research also seeks to identifying ways to enhance supports for siblings and in many instances engages community partners in the research process. For instance, I served as a trainee member of the Sibling Partnership for Advocacy, Research, and Care in Childhood Cancer (SPARCCC), a community-academic partnership dedicated to siblings of youth with cancer. In this role, I collaborated with team members on projects, including identifying a pathway for psychosocial support in siblings.
 - a. Alderfer, M.A., Kripalani, S., **Amaro, C.M.**, Taggi Pinto, A., Lewis, A., Hidenbrand, A. K., Lown, E.A., & Long, K.A. (2022, September). Trajectories of cancer-related traumatic stress among siblings of children with cancer within two years of diagnosis. Oral presentation at the *54th Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology*, Barcelona, Spain.
 - b. Long, K.A., **Amaro, C.M.**, Davis, K.A., Mazzenga, M.M., Cardona, N., Muriel, A.C., & Alderfer, M.A. (2022, September). Development of a new trauma-focused intervention for adolescent siblings of youth with cancer. *Society of Paediatric Oncology Annual Conference*, Barcelona, Spain.
 - c. Long, K. A., Patterson, P., Fainsilber Katz, L., **Amaro, C. M.**, & Alderfer, M. A. (2021). Creating a pathway for psychosocial support in siblings of youth with a chronic illness: Findings from an

international summit. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*, 42, 331-339. doi:10.1097/DBP.0000000000000902

- d. **Amaro, C. M.**, Alderfer, M. A., Christofferson, J., McWhorter, L. G., Demianczyk, A. C., Kazak, A. E., & Sood, E. (2020, August). Parent perspectives on sibling adjustment to congenital heart disease. In M. A. Alderfer & **C. M. Amaro** (Chairs), *Siblings of children with chronic conditions: A need for inclusion in family-centered care?* [Symposium]. American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Virtual.
3. Evaluating interventions and programs to support children, adolescents, and their families. Another focus of my research has been in evaluating program and intervention effectiveness. I have gained skills in conducting meta-analyses to examine the effectiveness of interventions, including psychosocial interventions for siblings of youth with chronic medical conditions; mobile health interventions in improving health outcomes; and pediatric weight management programs in primary care. I also collaborated with a non-profit organization to conduct an evaluation of their dollar-for-dollar match program at farmers' markets.
- a. **Amaro, C. M.**, Roberts, M. C., & Noser, A. E. (2020, March). Psychosocial interventions for siblings of youth with chronic medical conditions: A meta-analysis. In M. A. Alderfer & **C. M. Amaro** (Chairs), *Supporting siblings of youth with chronic medical conditions: A need for innovation* [Symposium]. Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference, Virtual.
 - b. **Amaro, C. M.**, & Roberts, M. C. (2017). An evaluation of a dollar-for-dollar match program at farmers' markets for families using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 26, 2990-2796. doi:10.1007/s10826-017-0779-4
 - c. Fedele, D. A., Cushing, C. C., Fritz, A., **Amaro, C. M.**, & Ortega, A. (2017). Mobile health interventions for improving health outcomes in youth: A meta-analysis. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 171(5), 461-469. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2017.0042
 - d. Mitchell, T. B., **Amaro, C. M.**, & Steele, R. G. (2016). Pediatric weight management interventions in primary care settings: A meta-analysis. *Health Psychology*, 35, 704-713. doi:10.1037/hea0000381
4. Professional Issues in Health Service Psychology. Additionally, I have an interest in professional issues in health service psychology and have examined areas such as team processes to overcome complex challenges, such as developing unique ways to support siblings of youth with cancer, as well as mentoring, supervision, and training in health service psychology. This research has strengthened my understanding of these important areas and will help me use key team and mentoring principles throughout the implementation of the current study.
- a. **Amaro, C. M.**, Alderfer, M. A., Gerhardt, C. A., Wawrzynski, S. E., Goldish, M., & Long, K. A. (In Press). Bringing together a transdisciplinary team to create and advance a shared vision for research and support for siblings of youth with cancer. *Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing*.
 - b. **Amaro, C. M.**, Noser, A. E., Rogers, E. E., Patten, J., Berry, S., & Roberts, M. C. (In Press). Evaluating mentoring programs in health service psychology: An example of the Society of Pediatric Psychology Mentoring Project. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*.
 - c. **Amaro, C. M.**, Mitchell, T. B., Poppert Cordts, K. M., Borner, K. B., Frazer, A. L., Garcia, A. M., & Roberts, M. C. (2020). Clarifying supervision expectations: Construction of a clinical supervision contract as a didactic exercise for advanced graduate students. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 14, 235-241. doi:10.1037/tep0000273
 - d. Roberts, M. C., Kanine, R. M., **Amaro, C. M.**, Evans, S. C., Garcia, A. M., & Blossom, J. B. (2016). International education and training for clinical child and adolescent psychology. *South African Journal of Psychology*, 46, 9-24. doi:10.1177/0081246315619510

Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/christina.amaro.1/bibliography/public/>