BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: GEORGE, LOGIN

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

POSITION TITLE: Assistant Professor

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
Rutgers University	BA	05/2009	Psychology & Philosophy
William Paterson University	MA	07/2011	Clinical & Counseling Psychology
University of Connecticut	PHD	07/2017	Clinical Psychology
VA Connecticut Healthcare System	Other training	06/2017	Clinical Psychology Doctoral Intern
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Fellow	07/2020	Psycho-oncology

A. Personal Statement

I am well positioned to carry out rigorous impactful research on patient and provider psychological processes and their impact on healthcare outcomes. Intensive research training has been a hallmark of my training, allowing me to develop expertise in survey methods, measurement science, and mixed methods. My past projects have successfully utilized diverse research designs and analytic methods (e.g., hierarchical linear modeling within daily-diary design; exploratory structural equation modeling for scale construction). My ability to execute programmatic research is evident in my work on how people cope with meaning loss following major life stressors, which has led to several publications, including a theoretical paper proposing a new integrative framework for meaning conceptualization, a psychometric paper developing a new measure matching that conceptualization, and subsequent papers using the new measure. My T32 research fellowship in psychology-oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and being a fellow in the Psychotherapy Research Laboratory, has given me a broad understanding of the psycho-social factors relevant to healthcare utilization and the design of interventions to improve outcomes. Finally, my ability to carry out impactful research is evident in my strong publication record and received recognition for my research, including the competitive NIH K99/R00 Career Award.

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

K99/R00 CA241310   George (PI)   04/15/20-Present
Psychological responses to the possibility of dying: Decision-making implications for advanced cancer patients
This research career development award supports the candidate in developing a line of research on psychological factors shaping end-of-life decision making and provides needed training. Specifically, the project examines psychological mechanisms by which patients reconcile the prospect of a poor prognosis with their goals and expectations. Training and mentorship received during the award focused on end-of-life research, decision-making, and measurement science.
Role: PI

T32 CA009461   Ostroff (PI)   08/15/17-04/15/20
T32 Research fellowship in psycho-oncology
This program provided rigorous research training and experience as it relates to psychiatric, behavioral, and psychological issues in cancer. Training included structured mentored research and didactics on research design, methods of assessment, basic statistics, data analysis, manuscript preparation, and ethics.
Role: Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Citations:

1. **George LS,** Polacek LC, Lynch K, Prigerson HG, Abou-Alfa GK, Atkinson TM, Epstein AS, Breitbart W. Reconciling the prospect of disease progression with goals and expectations: Development and validation of a measurement model in advanced cancer. Psychooncology. 2022 Jun;31(6):902-910. PubMed PMID: 34984756; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC9177588.

2. **George LS,** Matsoukas K, McFarland DC, Bowers JM, Doherty MJ, Kwon YS, Atkinson TM, Kozlov E, Saraiya B, Prigerson HG, Breitbart W. Interventions to Improve Prognostic Understanding in Advanced Stages of Life-Limiting Illness: A Systematic Review. J Pain Symptom Manage. 2021 Sep 9; PubMed PMID: 34508816; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC8816856.

3. **George LS,** Balboni TA, Maciejewski PK, Epstein AS, Prigerson HG. "My doctor says the cancer is worse, but I believe in miracles"-When religious belief in miracles diminishes the impact of news of cancer progression on change in prognostic understanding. Cancer. 2020 Feb 15;126(4):832-839. PubMed PMID: 31658374; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6992494

4. **George LS**, Park CL. Meaning in life as comprehension, purpose, and mattering: Toward integration and new research questions. Review of general psychology. 2016; 20(3):205-220.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

2008 - 2010	Research Assistant, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ
2009 - 2011	Graduate Assistantship, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ
2010 - 2011	Master's Level Clinical Intern, Wayne Counseling Center, Wayne, NJ
2010 - 2011	Research Team Coordinator, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ
2011 - 2017	Graduate Research Assistantship, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
2013 - 2013	Departmental Statistical Consultant for Graduate Students, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
2014 - 2015	Instructor of Record, University of Connecticut, Storrs , CT
2016 - 2017	Doctoral Intern, Connecticut VA HealthCare System, Newington, CT
2016 - 2017	Doctoral Intern doing minor research rotation, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT
2017 - 2020	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
2020 - 2020	Research Scholar, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
2020 -	Assistant Professor, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

Current	Member, Society for Behavioral Medicine
Current	Member, American Psychosocial Oncology Society
2009 - 2011	Campus Representative, New Jersey Psychological Association of Graduate Students
2011 - 2011	Member at Large-Programming Committee, New Jersey Psychological Association of Graduate Students
2014 - 2016	Campus Representative, Association for Psychological Science
2018 - 2019	NIH Loan Repayment Program Ambassador
2018 - 2019	Health Decision Making Special Interest Group Trainee Council

Honors

2009	Charles Biederman Award, Rutgers University
2009	Persian Cultural Foundation Award, Persian Cultural Foundation at Rutgers University
2009	Psychology Honors Program, Rutgers University
2009	Psi Chi National Honor Society, Rutgers University
2010	Ruth Klein Scholarship, William Paterson University
2010	Research Award, New Jersey Psychological Association

2018 - 2021	Clinical Research Loan Repayment Award, National Cancer Institute
2020	3rd Prize Winner, Memorial Sloan Kettering Postdoc Slam Competition
2020	NIH K Award (K99/R00), National Cancer Institute
2021	New Investigator Award, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey ($50,000)

C. Contribution to Science

1. <u>Psychological processes relevant to treatment decision-making, advance care planning, and distress in advanced cancer</u>. I have conducted several secondary data analysis projects examining psychological variables as they relate to prognostic understanding and decision-making. Findings from these analyses demonstrate the close interplay between psychological processes and illness understanding and decision-making. For example, one project showed that whether cancer progression news led to a corresponding change in prognostic understanding was contingent on patients' level of belief in miracles — patients with strong belief in miracles showed no change in prognostic understanding following receipt of relevant information. Another project looked at prognostic understanding and psychological well-being over time, showing that patients who became more accurate in their understanding showed a different pattern of change in well-being over time, than those who become more inaccurate. Finally, another project showed that when patients had false expectations of their anti-cancer treatments, they were more likely to have inaccurate understanding of their prognosis (e.g., incorrect life-expectancy estimate).

    a. **George LS,** Maciejewski PK, Epstein AS, Shen M, Prigerson HG. Advanced Cancer Patients' Changes in Accurate Prognostic Understanding and Their Psychological Well-Being. J Pain Symptom Manage. 2020 May;59(5):983-989. PubMed PMID: 31887399; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7186137.

    b. **George LS,** Balboni TA, Maciejewski PK, Epstein AS, Prigerson HG. "My doctor says the cancer is worse, but I believe in miracles"-When religious belief in miracles diminishes the impact of news of cancer progression on change in prognostic understanding. Cancer. 2020 Feb 15;126(4):832-839. PubMed PMID: 31658374; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6992494.

    c. **George LS,** Prigerson HG, Epstein AS, Richards KL, Shen MJ, Derry HM, Reyna VF, Shah MA, Maciejewski PK. Palliative Chemotherapy or Radiation and Prognostic Understanding among Advanced Cancer Patients: The Role of Perceived Treatment Intent. J Palliat Med. 2020 Jan;23(1):33-39. PubMed PMID: 31580753; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6931912.

    d. **George LS,** Breitbart W, Prigerson HG. "My Family Wants Something Different": Discordance in Perceived Personal and Family Treatment Preference and Its Association With Do-Not-Resuscitate Order Placement. J Oncol Pract. 2019 Nov;15(11):e942-e947. PubMed PMID: 31509484; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7010415.

3. <u>Psychological mechanisms by which aversive experiences impact well-being</u>. Experiences that pose a threat to peoples' goals and beliefs, can have far reaching implications on well-being (e.g., depression; anxiety). One prominent model of this phenomenon is the meaning-making model, which suggests that integrating the threatening event into one's sense of self and goals can minimize distress. I have tested key tenets of this model, among people dealing with a variety of threats (e.g., trauma; serious illness). In my dissertation, I conducted the first examination of intra-individual associations between key model variables, demonstrating that fluctuations in perceived threat to goals was associated with corresponding changes in distress.

    a. Park CL, **George LS**. Lab- and field-based approaches to meaning threats and restoration: Convergences and divergences. Review of General Psychology. 2018; 22(1): 73-84.

    b. **George LS**, Park CL, Chaudoir SR. Examining the relationship between trauma centrality and posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms: A moderated mediation approach. Traumatology. 2016 Jun;22(2):85-93. PubMed PMID: 27458331; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4957691

    c. **George LS**, Park CL. Meaning in life and violations of beliefs and goals: Reciprocal relations among individuals with congestive heart failure. Anxiety Stress Coping. 2017 May;30(3):282-289. PubMed PMID: 27824491; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5555741.

    d. **George LS**, Park CL. Do violation of core beliefs and goals drive distress and meaning-making with major life stressors. Illness, Crisis, & Loss. Forthcoming.

4. <u>Measure development.</u> To-date, I have developed, or helped develop, three validated self-report measures. To address the lack of a theoretically-based measure of meaning in life, I developed and published the Multidimensional Existential Meaning Scale, which has now been translated to multiple languages, including Chinese and Korean. I was also actively involved in the development of the Global Meaning Violation Scale, conducting the psychometric analyses (e.g., exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis) and creating subscales and choosing final items. Finally, I was involved as a content expert in the development of the Psychological Well-Being domain for NIH's Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS), where I helped evaluate adequacy of items, create new items, and make modifications based on cognitive interviewing results.

   a. **George LS**, Park CL. The Multidimensional Existential Meaning Scale: A tripartite approach to measuring meaning in life. The Journal of Positive Psychology. 2017; 12(6):613-627.

   b. Park CL, Riley K, **George LS**, Gutierrez I, Hale A, Cho D, Braun T. Assessing disruptions in meaning: Development of the Global Meaning Violation Scale. Cognitive Therapy and Research. 2016; 40(6):831–846.

   c. Salsman JM, Park CL, Hahn EA, Snyder MA, **George LS,** Steger MF, Merluzzi T, Cella D. Refining and supplementing candidate measures of psychological well-being for the NIH PROMIS®: Qualitative results from a mixed cancer sample. Quality of Life Research. 2018 Jun 20; PubMed PMID: <u>29926344</u>.

   d. Salsman JM, Schalet BD, Park CL, **George LS,** Steger MF, Hahn EA, Snyder MA, Cella D. Assessing meaning & purpose in life: development and validation of an item bank and short forms for the NIH PROMIS$^{®}$. Qual Life Res. 2020 Apr 19;PubMed PMID: <u>32306302</u>.

5. <u>The psychological need for meaning in life and its management.</u> A sense of meaning in life is widely recognized as a basic human need, the loss of which, can be highly distressing to people. I have set forth a new conceptual model of meaning, which better synthesizes and integrates relevant literatures across different topic areas. Further, I have identified in samples of people dealing with highly difficult experiences, the different factors that help them regulate meaning (that is, regain a sense of meaning, when its undermined).

   a. **George LS**, Park CL. Does spirituality confer meaning in life among heart failure patients and cancer survivors?. Psychology of Religion and Spirituality. 2017; 9(1):131-136.

   b. **George LS**, Park CL. Meaning in life as comprehension, purpose, and mattering: Toward integration and new research questions. Review of General Psychology. 2016; 20(3):205-220.

   c. **George LS**, Park CL. Are meaning and purpose distinct? An examination of correlates and predictors. Journal of Positive Psychology. 2013; 8(5):365-375.

<u>Complete List of Published Work in My Bibliography:</u>
<u>https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/login.george.1/bibliography/53596747/public/</u>