

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.  
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NAME: Kwok, Gary

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): kwokg01.2018

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

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 <i>(if applicable)</i>	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY	BA	06/2008	Psychology and Mathematics-Economics
City College of New York, New York, NY	MA	06/2012	General Psychology
City College of New York, New York, NY	MA	06/2014	Mental Health Counseling
Adelphi University, Garden City, NY	PHD	06/2020	Social Work
New York University, New York, NY	NIH training grant	06/2020	NIDA T32 Predoctoral Fellowship
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ	Postdoctoral Fellow	08/2023	Pediatric Oncology

**A. Personal Statement**

I am a behavioral scientist with a background in psychology, social work, and public health. My growing research program addresses the psychological, social, cultural, and developmental needs of vulnerable young adult populations. Supported by the NIDA T32 predoctoral fellowship, my dissertation identifies psychological and community-level protective factors related to risk behaviors among at-risk young adults. In my postdoctoral training, I focus on the unique developmental, psychosocial, and medical needs of adolescents and young adults (AYAs) with cancer. More specifically, my research focuses on leveraging digital health interventions to improve psychosocial outcomes among AYA cancer survivors: (1) Developing scalable digital health interventions and (2) Examining the best strategies to implement them in community and healthcare settings. My initial work demonstrated the feasibility of a commercially available mindfulness-based mobile application in improving mindfulness, cognitive reappraisal, perceived stress, mental health, and sleep among AYA cancer survivors. I also explore the provider- and system-level factors related to sustainable implementation and engagement of digital health interventions in AYA survivorship care. These experiences have prepared me to lead research at the intersection of psycho-oncology and digital health space among a vulnerable population in AYAs with cancer.

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

COCR22PDF New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research Postdoctoral Fellowship Kwok (PI) 07/01/2021-06/30/2023 Understanding the multilevel factors influencing a mindfulness-based mobile application service implementation for adolescents and young adults with cancer

P30 CA072720 Pilot Award/New Investigator Award Kwok (MPI with Sharma and Devine) 02/04/2021-02/03/2022 Use of Meditation Mobile Application in Pediatric Cancer Survivors

T32 DA007233 Falkin (PI), Role: Trainee 07/01/2018-06/30/2020 Behavioral Science Training Program

## B. Positions, Scientific Appointments and Honors

### Positions and Scientific Appointments

2020 -	Postdoctoral Fellow, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
2020 -	Member, Society of Behavioral Medicine
2020 -	Member, American Psychological Association
2019 - 2020	Student Advisory Board Member, Society for the Study of Social Problems
2019 - 2020	Ad hoc reviewer, Perspectives on Social Work
2018 - 2020	Predocctoral Fellow, New York University, New York, NY
2018 - 2018	Assistant Director of Research, Department of Cardiology, New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY
2017 - 2018	Annual Convention Media Committee Co-Chair, Asian American Psychological Association
2017 - 2017	Conference Deputy Volunteer Coordinator, Society for Social Work and Research
2016 - 2017	Doctoral Student Task Force Member, Society for Social Work and Research
2015 - 2017	Data Analyst, Departments of Nursing, NYU Langone Health, New York, NY
2014 -	Adjunct Professor, Department of Psychology, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ
2014 - 2015	Data Consultant, Hand in Hand Development, New York, NY
2012 - 2015	Research Assistant, Maimonides Cancer Center, Brooklyn, NY
2008 - 2008	Data and Coding Specialist, Department of Learning and Instruction, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

### Honors

2021	TL1 Fellowship Finalist, New Jersey Alliance For Clinical and Translational
2019	Scholarship, Scattergood Foundation
2019	Scholarship, American Federation of Teachers
2019	Conference Scholarship, Eastern Evaluation Research Society
2019	Annual Convention Student Travel Award, Asian American Psychological Association
2019	Scholarship, National Sex Education Conference
2019	Student Poster Scholarship, Winter Roundtable Conference in Psychology and Education
2017	Scholarship, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

## C. Contribution to Science

- Digital Health Interventions for Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivors:** As a postdoctoral fellow, my research focuses on identifying innovative ways to help adolescent and young adult cancer patients and survivors navigate their unique needs in cancer survivorship. Most recently, I have focused on leveraging technology to deliver psychosocial interventions suitable for this population (e.g., mindfulness-based mobile application and novel peer mentor self-management interventions). Our results have demonstrated positive effects on stress and emotions, health-related quality of life (e.g., physical and mental health, sleep), and mindfulness and stress appraisal. Further development and testing of these interventions is needed. In addition, both quantitative and qualitative results suggest that human support (e.g., peers) can enhance mobile app engagement, which gives rationale to the proposed Peer Digital Coach intervention study.
  - Kwok G**, Devine, KA. Peers. In Feldman HM, Blum NJ, Elias ER, Jimenez M, Stancin ,T ed. *Developmental-Behavioral pediatrics*. 5th ed. Elsevier; 2022: 167-170.
  - Kwok G**, Reese S, Dugad S, Donovan KA, Tsui J, Sahler OJZ, Levonyan-Radloff K, Barnett ME, Manne SL, Ohman-Strickland P, Devine KA. Factors Associated with COVID 19 Vaccine Uptake among Adolescents and Young Adults Recently Diagnosed with Cancer. *Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology* (Accepted).
  - Fluehr M, **Kwok G**, Stapleton JL, Masterson M, Devine KA. Factors Associated with Sun Protection Behaviors Among Childhood Cancer Survivors. *Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology* (Accepted).

- d. Viola AS, **Kwok G**, Levonyan-Radloff K, Manne SL, Noll RB, Phipps S, Sahler OJZ, Devine KA. Feasibility and Acceptability of Bright IDEAS-Young Adults: A Problem-Solving Skills Training Intervention. *Cancers*. 2022 Jun 25;14(13):3124. PMID: 35804896.
2. **An integrative and holistic approach to cancer care:** My predoctoral contributions were focused on applying my background in psychology to understanding and improving patient-reported outcomes in cancer care. More specifically, I worked with a team of physicians at Maimonides Cancer Center to understand the impact of psychosocial, spiritual, and religious needs on patients' satisfaction with their medical care. These scholarly works identified salient spiritual and psychosocial needs among different racial and ethnic patient populations. The results showed spiritual needs were a strong predictor of quality of care among diverse cancer patients. Collectively, these findings brought awareness to the importance of patient-centered factors beyond medical-related issues, which may lead to the development of interventions that address spiritual needs to reduce health disparities in cancer care.
- a. Astrow AB, **Kwok G**, Sharma RK, Fromer N, Sulmasy DP. Spiritual Needs and Perception of Quality of Care and Satisfaction With Care in Hematology/Medical Oncology Patients: A Multicultural Assessment. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2018 Jan;55(1):56-64.e1. PubMed PMID: 28842220.
- b. Astrow AB, **Kwok G**, Sharma RK, Fromer N, Sulmasy DP. Just What are Spiritual Needs of Cancer Patients? An Empirical Study in a Diverse Population. *J Clin Oncol*. 2016 May; 34(15\_suppl):10005-10005. DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2016.34.15\_suppl.10005.
- c. Astrow AB, **Kwok G**, Sharma RK, Fromer N, Sulmasy DP. Spiritual Needs and Patient Satisfaction in Multi-cultural Patient Population. *J Clin Oncol*. 2015 May; 33(15\_suppl): e20589. DOI: 10.1200/jco.2015.33.15\_suppl.e20589.
- d. Astrow AB, Fromer N, Sambidi S, **Kwok G**, Sharma RK, Sulmasy, DP. Spiritual Needs and Patient Satisfaction in a Multicultural Patient Population. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014 May; 32(15\_suppl): e20562. DOI: 10.1200/jco.2014.32.15\_suppl.e20562.
3. **Multilevel factors contributing to patient satisfaction with medical care:** Factors contributing to patients' satisfaction with their medical care are multifaceted and multilevel. My graduate research contributions focused on implementing and evaluating programs that seek to improve clinical practice. Working with different stakeholders, I evaluated the impacts of a national geriatric training/education initiative on nursing practice and patient outcomes in three phases: 1) assessing the impact of the program on nurses' clinical practice; 2) exploring the institution's support of the program; and 3) evaluating the impact of the program on patient outcomes. The results of these studies had a positive impact on patient care by highlighting the associated provider-level factors and opening new directions of research that inform patient-centered care from a multilevel perspective.
- a. Rosenfeld P, **Kwok G**, Glassman K. Assessing the perceptions and attitudes among geriatric resource nurses: Evaluating the NICHE program at a large academic medical center. *Gerontol Geriatr Educ*. 2018 Jul-Sep; 39(3):268-282. PubMed PMID: 29412068.

Complete List of Published Work in My Bibliography:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/gary.kwok.1/bibliography/public/>