

Molly Ann Hensler

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Department of Psychology
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EDUCATION

- 2015
(Expected) **Doctor of Philosophy**
 University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Program: *Medical Clinical Psychology*
 Area of Concentration: *Pediatric Psychology*
 Dissertation: *Benefit finding among caregivers of childhood cancer survivors*
 Dissertation Committee: Sylvie Mrug, PhD (chair); David Schwebel, PhD; Avi Madan-Swain, PhD; Sean Phipps, PhD; Roger Berkow, MD
- 2010 **Master of Arts**
 Wake Forest University
 Thesis: *Contrasting the core and MAP model conceptualizations of the antecedents of extraversion*
 Thesis Chair: Dustin Wood, PhD
- 2008 **Bachelor of Science**
 Furman University
 Major: *Psychology*
 Concentration: *Pre-medical Studies*
 Mentor: Beth Pontari, PhD

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2013 Society of Pediatric Psychology Student Poster Award, APA Annual Convention
2013 University of Alabama at Birmingham Psychology Department Travel Award
2010 Wake Forest University Graduate Research Day “Best Poster Award for the Social Sciences”
2009 Wake Forest University Summer Research Grant
2008, 2009 Wake Forest University Graduate School’s Alumni Student Travel Award
2007 Furman University Advantage Research Fellowship

FUNDING:

- 2011-present Predoctoral Fellow
 Cancer Prevention and Control Training Program
 NCI Training Grant (R25)

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Children’s of Alabama Hospital, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- 01/11-present **Department of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology**
 Supervisor: *Avi Madan-Swain, PhD*
- Ongoing individual therapy to patients and their families both on and off treatment
 - Inpatient psychological consultation as consult/liaison, including referrals and recommendations to patient, family, and medical team
 - Neuropsychological assessments to patients on and off treatment (ages 3-22)
 - Participation in school special education meetings to review neuropsychological test data and provide recommendations to the school system
 - Provide tiered supervision to graduate students with individual therapy
- 01/13-present **Craniofacial Clinic - Department of Neurosurgery**
 Supervisor: *Avi Madan-Swain, PhD*
- Outpatient psychological consultation as consult/liaison including recommendations to family and medical team
 - Provide referrals for children seen through craniofacial clinic
- 06/13-present **Gastroenterology Clinic - Department of Gastroenterology**
 Supervisor: *Michelle Mastin, PhD*
- Outpatient/inpatient psychological consultation as consult/liaison including recommendations to patient, family, and medical team
 - Provide referrals for children on the GI inpatient unit or outpatient clinic with a variety of GI-related complaints
- 09/13-present **Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) Clinic – Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine**
 Supervisor: *Heather Austin, PhD*
- Provide outpatient psychological consultation as part of multidisciplinary team for adolescents referred for a variety of complex medical and psychosocial difficulties
- Center for Psychiatric Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- 01/12-present **Clinical Practicum: Individual Outpatient Therapy**
 Supervisor: *A. Hal Thurstin, PhD*
- Provide ongoing individual therapy to 2-3 adult therapy clients once per week for a variety of diagnoses including Bipolar Disorder (Type 1), Narcissistic Personality Disorder, Dependent Personality Disorder, and social difficulties
 - Techniques utilized include cognitive-behavioral therapy and process-oriented therapy
- Bair, Peacock, McDonald, McMullen, & Bell, LLC
- 05/12-12/12 **Clinical Practicum: Outpatient Psychodiagnostic Testing**
 Supervisor: *Julie McDonald, PhD*
- Provided psychodiagnostic evaluations to adolescents and young adults with concerns for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Learning Disabilities
 - Conducted clinical interviews with clients and their families
 - Wrote integrated reports with thorough recommendations for school system

Department of Mental Health Adolescent Unit, University of Alabama at Birmingham**01/12-05/13 Clinical Practicum: Inpatient Psychiatric Unit**Supervisor: *Ross Grimes, PhD*

- Co-led group therapy sessions 1 day/week for adolescents age 13-18 with severe behavioral and psychiatric disorders
- Provided individual therapy to patients on the unit
- Conducted psychological assessments with patients on the unit

Civitan-Sparks Clinics, University of Alabama at Birmingham**01/11-present ADHD Parent Support Group**Supervisors: *J Bart Hodgens, PhD; Cryshelle Patterson, PhD*

- Coordination of community-based parent support group
- Co-lead and facilitate monthly meetings including psychoeducation related to treatment, behavioral strategies, medication, and school advocacy for children with ADHD

05/11-08/11 ADHD Summer Treatment ProgramSupervisors: *J. Bart Hodgens, PhD; Cryshelle Patterson, PhD*

- Trained and supervised college-aged counselors, conducting reliability and fidelity observations throughout program and provided feedback to counselors
- Developed behavioral plans for children aged 6-12
- Implemented behavioral interventions
- Observed weekly didactic parent training groups
- Analyzed treatment data, wrote integrated treatment reports, and provided feedback to families and school

RESEARCH EXPERIENCEChildren's of Alabama Hospital, University of Alabama at Birmingham**01/13-present Principal Investigator****Benefit Finding among Adolescent Survivors of Pediatric Cancer and their Caregivers**Supervisor: *Avi Madan-Swain, PhD*Funding: *Cancer Prevention and Control Training Program (NCI); UAB Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology*

- Principal investigator on study exploring benefit finding among adolescent cancer survivors and caregivers
- Designed study and selected measures
- Prepared IRB and responded to queries
- Collected, entered, and currently analyzing data
- First-author manuscript in preparation

01/13-present Research Coordinator (Graduate)**Barriers to the Use of Mental Healthcare among Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivors****Children's of Alabama Hospital, University of Alabama at Birmingham**Supervisor: *Avi Madan-Swain, PhD*Funding: *Cancer Prevention and Control Training Program (NCI); UAB Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology*

- Collaboratively designed study investigating various barriers to the use of mental healthcare resources among adolescent and young adult cancer survivors with documented mental health difficulties (i.e., anxiety, depression)
- Collected, entered, and analyzed data
- Supervised research assistants on data collection and entry
- First-author manuscript submitted

08/12-present

Research Coordinator (Graduate)**Social Skills and Executive Functions in Youth with Sickle Cell Disease
Children's of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham**Supervisor: *Avi Madan-Swain, PhD**Funding:* UAB Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

- Designed study investigating the association between executive functions and social skills in children and adolescents with sickle cell disease
- Prepared IRB, responded to queries, and managed renewals
- Collected, entered, and analyzed data
- Supervised research assistants on data collection and entry
- Submitted manuscript for first-author publication and several posters for regional and national conferences

05/12-present

Research Assistant (Graduate)**Spiritual Coping among Youth with Cancer**Supervisor: *Avi Madan-Swain, PhD**Funding:* *APA Division 36*

- Recruit participants for study exploring spirituality and psychosocial adjustment via semi-structured interviews and validated measures for youth with cancer and their caregivers
- Collect data
- Analyze data for poster presentations

07/11-03/13

Research Coordinator (Graduate)**Benefit Finding among Fathers of Childhood Cancer Survivors****Children's of Alabama Hospital, University of Alabama at Birmingham**Supervisor: *Avi Madan-Swain, PhD**Funding:* Cancer Prevention and Control Training Program (NCI); UAB Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

- Designed and coordinated qualitative pilot study investigating benefit finding among fathers of childhood cancer survivors
- Developed a qualitative measure in collaboration with several researchers and selected other study measures
- Prepared IRB, responded to queries, and managed renewals
- Collected, entered, coded, and analyzed data, including participant interviews
- Prepared first-author manuscript for publication and several posters for regional and national conferences

07/11-12/12

Research Assistant (Graduate)**Coping with Chronic Illness**Supervisor: *Sylvie Mrug, PhD*

Funding: *NIH; UAB Department of Psychology*

- Collected data involving study of spiritual coping, physical health, and emotional adjustment among adolescents with cystic fibrosis or diabetes and their caregivers

Wake Forest University Department of Psychology

08/08-05/10

Principal Investigator

Underlying Causes of Variation in Big Five Personality Traits

Supervisor: *Dustin Wood, PhD*

Funding: *Wake Forest University Department of Psychology*

- Developed and coordinated empirical study assessing the motives, abilities, and perceptions underlying variation and covariation of personality traits for Master's Thesis (defended May 2010)
- Developed qualitative interview for first phase of data collection; Assisted with data collection
- Collaboratively developed web-based survey for data collection
- Collected and analyzed data
- Prepared manuscript for publication

Furman University Department of Psychology

05/07-08/07

Research Assistant (Undergraduate)

The Use of Positive Imagery and Cognitive Distraction to Reduce Social Anxiety

Supervisor: *Beth Pontari, PhD*

Funding: *Furman University Department of Psychology*

- Research assistant for study designed to investigate how individuals with social anxiety use positive, negative, or neutral cognitive distraction when in social interactions
- Collected data, coded videotapes, and presented findings at regional conference

08/07-05/08

Research Assistant (Undergraduate)

The Role of Friends and Groups for Individuals with Social Anxiety

Supervisor: *Beth Pontari, PhD*

Funding: *Furman University Department of Psychology*

- Independent study research project
- Collaboratively design project investigating how individuals with social anxiety use friends or groups to reduce distress when in social situations
- Collected, entered, and analyzed data,
- Presented findings at regional conference

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2008-2010

Teaching Assistant (4 semesters)
Research Methods II (PSY 312),
Wake Forest University

SERVICE:

2012-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* Mentored Review Program

2012-2013

Campus Representative, American Psychological Association of Graduate Students

2011-2013

President/Liaison, Psychology Graduate Student Association, UAB Department of Psychology

2011-present Mentor to undergraduate psychology students, UAB Mentor Program

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

2010-present American Psychological Association, Student Member
 APA Division 53 – Pediatric Psychology
 APA Division 54 – Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology
 2008-2010 Association for Research in Personality (ARP)
 2008-2010 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
 2007-2008 Psi Chi: National Honor Society in Psychology

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

2013 “ADHD Treatments: Beyond the Reduction of Symptoms;” Presentation given to parents of 3rd-5th grade student at Erwin Intermediate School; Co-presented with Donna Murdaugh, MA; Birmingham, Alabama.
 2012 “Childhood Chronic Illness and Family Adaptation;” Head and Neck Conference: Birmingham Regional Chapter of the Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Nurses; Co-presented with Avi Madan-Swain, PhD; Birmingham, Alabama.

PUBLICATIONS:

Published Manuscripts:

Hensler, M., Wolfe, K., Lebensburger, J., Nieman, J., Barnes, M., Nolan, W., King, A., & Madan-Swain, A. (in press). Social skills and executive functions among youth with sickle cell disease. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*.

Reynolds, N., Mrug, S., **Hensler, M.,** Guion, K., & Madan-Swain, A. (in press). Spiritual coping and adjustment in adolescents with chronic illness: A 2-year prospective study. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*.

Barnes, M. J., Pressey, J. G., **Hensler, M.,** Adams, J. M., and Madan-Swain, A. (in press) Physician and nurse beliefs of Phase I trials in pediatric oncology. *Cancer Nursing*.

Hensler, M., Katz, E. R., Wiener, L., Berkow, R., & Madan-Swain, A. (2013). Benefit finding in fathers of childhood cancer survivors: A retrospective pilot study. *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*, 30, 161-168. doi: 10.1177/1043454213487435

Manuscripts under review:

Wood, D., **Hensler, M.,** & Harms, P. D. How a functionalist understanding of behavior can explain trait variation and covariation without the use of structural factors. Manuscript on second revision at *Psychological Review*.

Hensler, M., Barnes, M., Boppana, S., Davis, C., Cotton, P., Heron, B., Henninger, A., Alva, E., Gleason, M., Whelan, K., & Madan-Swain, A. (2013). Barriers to the utilization of mental healthcare resources among adolescent and young adult survivors of pediatric cancer. Manuscript on first revision.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Hensler, M.,** Reynolds, N., Cotton, S., Grosseohme, D., Nieman, J., Jagielski, C., Whelan, K., & Madan-Swain, A. (2013, August). *Caregiver distress: Influence of religious coping on parental adjustment to childhood cancer at diagnosis and 12-months post-diagnosis*. Poster presented at the 121st Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI.
- Hensler, M.,** Wolfe, K., Nolan, W., Reynolds, N., Nieman, J., Lebensburger, J., & Madan-Swain, A. (2013, August). *Relationships between executive functions and social skills in children with pediatric sickle cell disease*. Poster presented at the 121st Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI.
- Hensler, M.,** Katz, E. R., Wiener, L., Berkow, A., & Berkow, R. (2013, August). *Paternal coping with childhood cancer: Changes in roles and responsibilities*. Poster presented at the 121st Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI.
- Hensler, M.,** Wolfe, K., Nolan, W., Reynolds, N., Nieman, J., Lebensburger, J., & Madan-Swain, A. (2013, April). *Executive functions and social skills in pediatric sickle cell disease: With and without history of silent cerebral infarct*. Poster presented at the National Conference in Pediatric Psychology, New Orleans, LA.
- Nieman, J., **Hensler, M.,** Wolfe, K. R., Lebensburger, A. R., Walsh, K., & Madan-Swain, A. (2013, April). *The relationship between executive functioning and social skills in children with sickle cell disease and childhood brain tumor survivors*. Poster presented at the National Conference in Pediatric Psychology, New Orleans, LA.
- Hensler, M.,** Berkow, R., Barrett, J., Byrd, P., Wiener, L., Katz, E., Cortopassi, A., & Madan-Swain, A. (2012, August). *Posttraumatic growth and benefit finding in fathers of childhood cancer survivors*. Poster presented at the 120th Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, Orlando, FL.
- Reynolds, N., **Hensler, M.,** & Mrug, Sylvie. (2012, August). *Predictors of distress among mothers and fathers of youth with chronic illness*. Poster presented at the 120th Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, Orlando, FL.
- Hensler, M.,** Berkow, R., Byrd, P., Barrett, J., & Madan-Swain, A. (2012, February). *Paternal coping with childhood cancer*. Poster presented at the 9th Annual Meeting of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society, Miami, FL.
- Hensler, M.,** & Wood, D. (2010, January). *Common underlying causes of extraversion and agreeableness*. Poster presented at the 10th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.
- Hensler, M.,** & Wood, D. (2009, July). *Motives, abilities, and perceptions underlying variation in extraverted behavior*. Poster presented at the 1st Meeting of the Association for Research in Personality, Evanston, Illinois.
- Hensler, M.,** & Pontari, B. (2008, October). *The role of friends and groups in the social lives of the socially anxious*. Poster presented at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Society for Southeastern Social Psychologists, Greenville, SC.

Isenhower, C., Brann, C., **Hensler, M.**, Wortman, J., & Pontari, B. (2007, October). *Reducing social anxiety: Positive imagery, cognitive distraction, or both?* Poster presented at the 29th Annual Meeting of the Society for Southeastern Social Psychologists, Durham, NC.