

CURRICULUM VITAE

Bianca Kirsch, M.A.R., PCMHT

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Clinical Psychology

University of Mississippi, University, MS

Dissertation: Religiosity and Ambulatory Blood Pressure

Anticipated: 2026

Master of Arts, Clinical Psychology

University of Mississippi, University, MS

Thesis: Trait Forgiveness and Trait Anger: Links with 24-Hour Ambulatory Blood Pressure

2024

Master of Arts, Religion

Westminster Theological Seminary, Glenside, PA

2020

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA

Minor: Philosophy

2012

Honors & Awards

Johnny W. Lott Graduate Instructor Award

2023

Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholar,
University of Mississippi

2020 – 2024

Excellence in Inclusivity Fellowship, University of Mississippi

2020 – 2024

Presidential Scholarship, Westminster Theological Seminary

2017 – 2020

Magna cum laude, La Salle University

2012

Dean's List, La Salle University

2009 – 2012

Founder's Scholarship, La Salle University

2008 – 2012

Clinical Experience

Communicare – Holly Springs, MS

2024 – present

Graduate Student Therapist, University of Mississippi

- Provides psychotherapy to community dwelling adults presenting with a range of psychological and functional difficulties. Utilizes skills-based therapy using evidence-based treatments such as motivational interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), behavioral activation, Cognitive Behavioral Analysis System of Psychotherapy (CBASP), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), etc.

University Counseling Center – Oxford, MS
Graduate Student Therapist, University of Mississippi

2023 – 2024

- Provides psychotherapy to undergraduate and graduate students, for a range of presenting problems (e.g., trauma, suicidal ideation, depression, self-harm, anxiety). Employs skills-based therapy using evidence-based treatments such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), and behavioral activation.

Psychological Services Center – Oxford, MS
Graduate Student Therapist, University of Mississippi

2021 – present

- Provides psychotherapy to a range of clients (child to adult) for diverse presenting problems (e.g., depression, anxiety, trauma, Attention-deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder). Employs skills-based therapy using evidence-based techniques such as DBT, prolonged exposure, cognitive restructuring, Cognitive Processing Therapy, behavior therapy, parent management training, etc.

North Mississippi Regional Center – Oxford, MS
Graduate Student Intern, Psychological and Behavioral Services

2021 – 2022

- Provided skills-based group counseling using Dialectical Behavior Therapy techniques for adults with intellectual developmental disorder (IDD). Provided positive reinforcement as part of an adult female's behavioral program to achieve target behaviors.

Research Experience

Fox Chase Cancer Center – Philadelphia, PA
Clinical Research Data Specialist, Cancer Prevention and Control

2013 – 2020

- Managed a national multisite clinical trial assessing clinical and biological predictors of chemotherapy intolerance in older patients with metastatic breast cancer. PI: Efrat Dotan, M.D.
- Developed protocols, performed IRB submissions, and managed study activity at five academic cancer centers and nine community cancer centers, nationwide. PI: Efrat Dotan, M.D.
- Developed and implemented recruitment methods for multiple cancer prevention and control research studies, exploring outcomes in breast, colorectal, and prostate cancers. PIs: Efrat Dotan, M.D., Yu-Ning Wong, M.D.
- Managed and expanded patient databases used for outcomes research in pancreatic cancers. PI: Namrata Vijayvergia, M.D.
- Performed cognitive assessments and physical performance batteries on older patients with cancer, in addition to training research nurses on Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment administration. PI: Efrat Dotan, M.D.

- Prepared grant applications, manuscripts, abstracts, and posters for national and international oncology conferences. PIs: Efrat Dotan, M.D., Daniel Geynisman, M.D., Yu-Ning Wong, M.D.
- Performed nutrition assessments by administering a computerized food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) on patients with cancer. PI: Rishi Jain, M.D.
- Trained and managed medical student and psychology student interns. PI: Efrat Dotan, M.D.

La Salle University – Philadelphia, PA
Research Assistant, Department of Psychology

2011

- Led recruitment, performed study assessments, and analyzed data for a randomized controlled study assessing environmental effects on emotion.
- Facilitated viewing of an emotive intervention video, carried out gift-giving interventions, and composed a manuscript that reported study findings. PI/Advisor: Patricia Wilson, Ph.D.

La Salle University – Philadelphia, PA
Co-Investigator, Department of Psychology

2011

- Co-designed, led, and analyzed a randomized controlled study assessing the impact of presentation modality on recall accuracy.
- Performed IRB submissions, recruited participants, administered questionnaires, created memorization content for recall tasks, and presented study material in three distinct learning conditions (audio, visual, and audio-visual).
- Assisted with statistical analysis, prepared a manuscript, and presented study findings at La Salle University's Annual Showcase for the Science of Psychology and its Application – Poster Session. Advisor: Simon Moon, Ph.D.

Fox Chase Cancer Center – Philadelphia, PA
Research Assistant, Department of Medicine – Section of Psychiatry

2010 – 2015

- Administered, scored, and managed a database of over 1,000 Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scales (HADS) and National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Distress Thermometers.
- Prepared IRB submissions, recruited participants, performed literature reviews, and conducted usability testing for software developed to assess chemo brain.
- Trained and managed undergraduate psychology interns.

Teaching Experience

University of Mississippi – Oxford, MS 2022 – 2023
Graduate Instructor, Department of Psychology

- PSY 311: Psychopathology Integrative Approaches – Section I 2022-2023 Spring
- PSY 311: Psychopathology Integrative Approaches – Section I 2022-2023 Fall
- PSY 311: Psychopathology Integrative Approaches – Section I 2022-2023 2nd Summer Term

University of Mississippi – Oxford, MS 2020 – 2024
Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology

- PSY 301: Developmental Psychology – Online 3 2024-2025 Fall
- PSY 309: Learning – Section 1 2022-2023 Spring
- PSY 311: Psychopathology Integrative Approaches – Section 2 2022-2023 Fall
- PSY 311: Abnormal Psychology – Online 2 2020-2021 Spring
- PSY 201: Introduction to Psychology – Online 1 2020-2021 Fall

Pedagogical Training and Engagement

Seminar on College Teaching: Section 1 (PSY 735) – Oxford, MS 2023
University of Mississippi

Institute on Teaching and Mentoring – Tampa, FL 2023
Southern Regional Education Board

Institute on Teaching and Mentoring – Atlanta, GA 2022
Southern Regional Education Board

Institute on Teaching and Mentoring – Remote Conference 2021
Southern Regional Education Board

Professional Service

Member, Association for Black Psychologists 2024
Member, Mississippi Association of Black Psychologists 2024
Member, Society of Behavioral Medicine 2021 – present
Member, Research Review Committee, University of Mississippi 2022 – present
Poster Judge, UM Conference on Psychological Science 2022

Leadership Experience

Graduate Peer Mentor, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS 2022 – 2024
Founder & President, The A.B.C. (African, Black, People of Color) Student Fellowship, Westminster Theological Seminary 2019
Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment Instructor, Fox Chase Cancer Center 2014 – 2020

President, La Salle University Psychology Club	2010 – 2011
Founder & Member, Psyched Out Tutor Program, La Salle University	2010 – 2011
Treasurer, La Salle University Psychology Club	2009 – 2010

Publications

- Somayaji, K.H., Handorf, E., Meeker, C.R., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2023). Psychosocial needs of older patients with metastatic breast cancer treated at community centers. *Journal of Geriatric Oncology*, 14(2):101444. DOI: [10.1016/j.jgo.2023.101444](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jgo.2023.101444)
- Leukel, P.J., Kollin, S., **Lewis, B.**, Lee, A.A. (2022). The Influence of emotion regulation and family involvement on diabetes distress among adults with type 2 diabetes. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, Advance online publication. DOI: [10.1007/s10865-022-00351-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10865-022-00351-0)
- Seedor, R.S., Meeker, C.R., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2022). Prospective comparison of geriatric assessment and provider's assessment of older adults with metastatic breast cancer in the Community. *The Oncologist*, 27(2), e133-e141.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oncolo/oyab032>
- Jain, R, Vijayvergia, N., Devarajan, K., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2020). Chemotherapy use and survival in older adults with metastatic pancreatic cancer in the combination therapy era. *Journal of Geriatric Oncology*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jgo.2019.12.013>.
- Osterman, C.K., Babu, D.S., Geynisman, D.M., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2019). Efficacy of Split Schedule Versus Conventional Schedule Neoadjuvant Cisplatin-Based Chemotherapy for Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer. *The Oncologist*, 24(5), 688-690.
- Dotan, E., Handorf, E., Meeker, C.R., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2018). The approach of community oncology providers towards pre-treatment assessment of older patients with metastatic breast cancer (MBC). [Abstract]. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 36(15_suppl).
- Meeker, C.R., Wong, Y.N., Egleston, B.L., Hall, M.J., Plimack, E.R., Martin, L.P., von Mehren, M., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2017). Distress and financial distress in adult cancer patients: an age-based analysis. *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network*, 15(10), 1224-1233.
- Meeker C.R., Geynisman D.M., Egleston B.L., Hall M.J., Mechanic K.Y., Bilusic M., Plimack E.R., Martin L.P., von Mehren M., **Lewis B.**, et al. (2016). Relationships Among Financial Distress, Emotional Distress, and Overall Distress in Insured Patients with Cancer. *Journal of Oncology Practice*, 12(7):e755-64.
- Vijayvergia, N., Dotan, E., Devarajan, K., Hatahet, K., Rahman, F., Ricco, J., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2015). Patterns of care and outcomes of older versus younger patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer: A Fox Chase Cancer Center experience. *Journal of Geriatric Oncology*, 6(6):454-61.

Research Talks

Lee, A.A., Leukel, P.J., **Lewis, B.**, Kollin, S.R. (2021, April). *Cognitive vulnerabilities associated with diabetes related distress among adults with type 2 diabetes*. Paper presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine.

Posters

Lewis, B., Kollin, S.R., Lee, A.A. (2021, June). *Are Larger Support Networks More Helpful or Harmful for Adults with Type 2 Diabetes?* Poster to be presented at the American Diabetes Association's Virtual 81st Scientific Sessions, Virtual Conference.

Lewis, B., Leukel, P.J., Kollin, S.R., Lee, A.A. (2021, April). *Helpful vs. Harmful Family Involvement and Diabetes-Related Acute Service Use among Adults with Type 2 Diabetes*. Poster to be presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Virtual Conference.

Lee, A.A., Leukel, P.J., **Lewis, B.**, Kollin, S.R. (2021, April). *Cognitive vulnerabilities associated with diabetes related distress among adults with type 2 diabetes*. Research Talk at the 42nd Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Virtual Conference.

Kollin, S.R., Leukel, P.J., **Lewis, B.**, Lee, A.A. (2021, April). *The effect of emotion regulation on medication adherence and self-care activities among adults with type 2 diabetes*. Poster to be presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Virtual Conference.

Leukel, P.J., Lim, C.S., Kollin, S.R., **Lewis, B.**, & Lee, A.A. (2021, April). *The Influence of Interpersonal Emotion Regulation and Family Involvement on Diabetes Distress among Adults with Type 2 Diabetes*. Accepted Research Spotlight presentation at the 42nd Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Virtual Conference.

Jain, R., Denlinger, C.S., Handorf, E.A., George R., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2021, January) *Feasibility of using a computerized food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) to assess dietary patterns in patients with advanced gastrointestinal (GI) malignancies*. Poster presented at the 2021 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium American Society of Clinical Oncology Meetings, Virtual Conference.

Lewis, B., Meeker, C.R., Handorf, E.A., et al. (2020, March). *Psychosocial support in older patients with metastatic breast cancer (mBC) treated at community centers*. In light of COVID-19, this poster was published online for the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) 2020 Annual Conference.

Zibelman, M., **Lewis, B.**, Ross, E., et al. (2020, February). *Safety and efficacy of neoadjuvant chemotherapy with accelerated methotrexate, vinblastine, doxorubicin, and cisplatin in*

patients with muscle invasive bladder cancer as a function of age. Poster presented at the 2020 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium – American Society of Clinical Oncology Meetings, San Francisco, CA.

Strother, M., Geynisman, D.M., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2020, February). *Neoadjuvant cisplatin-based chemotherapy in patients with ureteral obstruction secondary to muscle-invasive bladder cancer.* Poster presented at 2020 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium – American Society of Clinical Oncology Meetings, San Francisco, CA.

Dotan, E., Handorf, E., Meeker, C.R., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2019, March). *Assessment and Management of Older patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) Among Community Oncologists.* Poster presented at the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) 2019 Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

Dotan, E., Handorf, E., Meeker, C.R., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2018, November). *Assessment and Management of Older Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) Among Community Oncologists in the United States.* Poster presented at the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) 2018 Annual Conference, Amsterdam, NL.

Jain, R., Vijayvergia, N., Devarajan, K., Shameem, R., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2016, June). *Changing patterns of metastatic pancreatic cancer (mPC) care in the combination therapy era: A geriatric perspective.* Poster presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2016 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Kominsky R., **Lewis B.**, Liu J., Mechanic, K.Y. (2016, January). *Distress in a High Risk Head and Neck Cancer Population as Evaluated by the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS).* Poster presented at the Triological Society Combined Sections Meeting, Miami Beach, FL.

Vijayvergia, N., Dotan, E., Devarajan, K., **Lewis, B.**, et al. (2015, January) *Predictors of long term survival with metastatic pancreatic cancer (mPC) in the gemcitabine era: The Fox Chase Cancer Center experience.* Poster presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2015 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium, San Francisco, CA.

Robinson, E., **Lewis, B.**, Moon, S. (2011). *Impact of Modality on Recall Accuracy: A closer look at the influence of social networking.* Presented at La Salle University's Annual Showcase for the Science of Psychology and its Application – Poster Session, Philadelphia, PA.

Film

Morgan Locke, N. (Producer & Director). (2020). *Fight of Faith* [Motion Picture]. United States: Watchful Dragons.

- In a documentary that explores *when* and *how* people choose their battles, personal commentary was provided on how the Reformed Christian community can process and combat racial tensions and prejudices in the church.

Updated October 2024