

**CATHERINE WILSNACK, MSW, LMSW**  
**Doctoral Candidate**  
**Steve Hicks School of Social Work**  
**The University of Texas at Austin**  
[wilsnack@utexas.edu](mailto:wilsnack@utexas.edu)

## **EDUCATION**

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- August 2021- May 2025 (expected) **Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work**  
 Dissertation Title: *Psychosocial health at the intersection of oncology and substance use*  
 Steve Hicks School of Social Work  
 The University of Texas at Austin  
 Austin, TX, USA
- August 2017- May 2019 **Master of Social Work**  
 Certificate in Penn Aging Program  
 School of Social Policy and Practice  
 The University of Pennsylvania  
 Philadelphia, PA, USA
- August 2013- May 2017 **Bachelor of Science in Psychology**  
 Minors: Hispanic Studies and Social and Economic Justice  
 Department of Psychology  
 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
 Chapel Hill, NC, USA

## **HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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- 2024 Harry E. and Bernice M. Moore Fellowship (2024-2025), The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, (\$20,000)
- 2024 Graduate School Continuing Fellowship (2024-2025), The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School, (\$40,150)
- 2024 Provost's Fellowship Supplement (2024-2025), The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School, (\$5,000)
- 2024 Duke Cancer Institute (DCI) Invited Scholar Research Symposium
- 2023 Graduate School Continuing Fellowship (2023-2024), The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School, (\$39,000)
- 2023 Provost's Fellowship Supplement (2023-2024), The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School, (\$5,000)

- 2023 Graduate School Fellowship (2023-2024), The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School, (\$5,000)
- 2022 Graduate School Fellowship (2022-2023), The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School, (\$24,000)
- 2022 Provost's Fellowship Supplement (2022-2023), The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School, (\$5,000)
- 2022 Kim Lawson Scholarship Award, Association of Oncology Social Work (\$1,000)
- 2022 Graduate Summer School Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School, (\$7,500)
- 2021 Institute for Collaborative Health Research and Practice Research Fellow, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2021 Judge Pat Shelton and Family Presidential Scholarship (2021-2022), The University of Texas at Austin (\$3,500)
- 2021 Provost's Fellowship Supplement (2021-2022), The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School, (\$5,000)
- 2021 Graduate School Fellowship (2021-2022), The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School, (\$5,000)
- 2019 Cancer Research Training Award Fellow (2019-2021), The National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health
- 2018 SP2 Porter Family Student Fellowship (2018-2019), The University of Pennsylvania at the School of Social Policy and Practice (\$2,500)
- 2017 Buckley Public Service Scholars Award, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2016 Psi Chi International Honor Society, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Psychosocial health in cancer survivorship; substance use and cancer; community-based research; adolescent and young adult cancer survivors; rare disease; palliative and end of life care; grief, loss, and family bereavement; lifespan development.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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1. Rising, C. J., Shepherd, R. F., Sleight, A. G., Boyd, P., **Wilsnack, C.**, Thompson, A. S., Huelsnitz, C. O., Hutson, S. P., Khincha, P. P., & Werner-Lin, A. (in press). Relating to the body under chronic cancer threat: Implications for psychosocial health among adolescents and young adults with cancer predisposition syndromes. *Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology*.
2. Werner-Lin, A., Khincha, P. P., Thompson, A. S., Rising, C. J., Sleight, A. G., **Wilsnack, C.**, Boyd, P., Feldman, A., Forbes Shepherd, R. Savage, S. A. (in press). Living with rare genetic disease during the COVID-19 pandemic: Perspectives of adolescents and young adults with Li-Fraumeni syndrome. *Rare*.
3. Rising, C. J., Huelsnitz, C., Forbes Shepherd, R., Klein, W., Sleight, A., **Wilsnack, C.**, Boyd, P., Feldman, A., Khincha, P. P., & Werner-Lin, A. (in press). Reported diet and physical activity behaviors of adolescents and young adults with inherited multi-organ cancer risk: relationships with coping strategies and health-related quality of life. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*.
4. **Wilsnack, C.**, Young, J., Merrill, S., Hutson, S., Groner, V., Bremer, R. C., Greene, M., Khincha, P.P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2024). Reproductive beliefs among families with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome: Generations of cancer risk. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*, 15(2), 281–302.
5. Werner-Lin, A., Forbes Shepherd, R., Rising, C., Thompson, A., Huelsnitz, C., **Wilsnack, C.**, Sleight, A., Boyd, P., Hutson, S. P., Khincha, P.P. (2023). How do young people with a hereditary cancer predisposition syndrome understand and experience cancer survivorship? “With Li-Fraumeni Syndrome, it’s just an intermission” *Psycho-Oncology*, 32(3), 375-382.
6. Rising, C. J., **Wilsnack, C.**, Boyd, P., Sleight, A. G., Hutson, S. P., Khincha, P. P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2022). Family communication challenges of adolescents and young adults with Li-Fraumeni syndrome: Implications for psychosocial care. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 105(11), 3259-3266.
7. Werner-Lin, A., Forbes Shepherd, R., Young, J. L., **Wilsnack, C.**, Merrill, S., Groner, V., Greene, M. H., Khincha, P. (2022). Physical and aesthetic change as loss for families with a rare inherited cancer syndrome: “Like electricity through my body.” *Social Science & Medicine*, 301, 1-9.
8. Sleight, A., Rising, C., Boyd, P., **Wilsnack, C.**, Goodfellow, M., Khincha, P. P., Hutson, S. P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2022). “I can control what I do with my daily life”: Occupational experiences of adolescents and young adults with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome. *Journal of Occupational Science*. doi: 10.1080/14427591.2022.2050785
9. **Wilsnack, C.**, Young, J., Merrill, S., Groner, V., Loud, J., Bremer, R. C., Greene, M., Khincha, P.P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2021). Family identity and roles in the context of Li-Fraumeni syndrome: “No one’s like us mutants.” *Health & Social Work*, 46(4), 299-307.

10. Werner-Lin, A., Young, J. L., **Wilsnack, C.**, Merrill, S., Groner, V., Loud, J., Bremer, R. C., Peters, J. A., Greene, M. H., Khincha, P. P. (2020). Waiting and “weighted down:” The challenge of anticipatory loss for individuals and families with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome. *Familial Cancer, 19*(3), 259-268.
11. O’Brien, J. E., Jordan, B., Honeycutt, N., **Wilsnack, C.**, & Davison, C. (2019). “It’s all about breaking down those barriers...”: Exploring survivors’ perspectives on services and treatment needs following commercial sexual exploitation during childhood. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work, 16*(2), 160-177.

### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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1. **Wilsnack, C.**, & Cubbin, C. (revise and resubmit). The relationship between race/ethnicity and age on medical financial hardship for cancer survivors in the United States. *Journal of Cancer Survivorship*.
2. **Wilsnack, C.**, Rising, C. J. (co-first author), Hutson, S. P., Thompson, A., Forbes Shepherd, R., Werner-Lin, A., & Savage, S. A. (revise and resubmit). Needs assessment of adults and family caregivers of individuals with Telomere Biology Disorders: A mixed methods approach. *European Journal of Human Genetics*.
3. Pearce, E., Majid, A., Brown, T., **Wilsnack, C.**, Rising, C. J., Thompson, A. S., Forbes Shepherd, R., Werner-Lin, A., Gilkey, M. B., Ribisl, K. M., Hutson, S. P., Han, P. K. J., Savage, S. A., & Niknafs, A. (under review). A “rotating menu” of medical uncertainty for families affected by telomere biology disorders: A qualitative interview study. *Qualitative Research in Health*.

### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION (Analyses complete)

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1. **Wilsnack, C.**, Rios, H., Chen, Q., Phillips, F., & Jones, B. (in preparation). The impact of patient advisory councils on adolescent and young adult psychosocial oncology care.
2. **Wilsnack, C.**, Fishstein, A., Rising, C., Forbes Shepherd, R., Boyd, P., Sleight, A., Khincha, P.P., & Werner-Lin, A. (in preparation). Identity formation in adolescents and young adults with a rare hereditary cancer syndrome.
3. **Wilsnack, C.**, Noel, L., & Jones, B. (in preparation). Defining the roles of cancer patient advocacy and advisory groups in cancer care and research: A call for the social work profession.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

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1. Werner-Lin, A., & **Wilsnack, C.** (2020). “He only has three months to live:” Anticipating the death of a sibling in the context of inherited cancer risk. In J. McCoyd, & C. Walter (Eds.). *Grief and loss across the lifespan: A biopsychosocial perspective*, 3rd Edition. New York: Springer Publishing.

## RECENT MEDIA

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1. **Wilsnack, C.,** & Werner-Lin, A. (co-first author). (2022). *Oncology social work practice in the genomic era: Using what is already in our toolbox*. Association for Oncology Social Workers (AOSW) Connection. <https://aosw.org/newsletter-article/oncology-social-work-practice-in-the-genomic-era-using-what-is-already-in-our-toolbox/>

## INVITED ORAL PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Wilsnack, C.** (August 2024). Mental health and living with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS). Invited oral presentation at the Living LFS Family Summer Camp, Mt. Gilead, OH.
2. **Wilsnack, C.** (August 2024). Grief, loss, and family bereavement. Invited oral presentation at the Living LFS Family Summer Camp, Mt. Gilead, OH.
3. **Wilsnack, C.** (August 2024). Caring for the caregivers with LFS and without LFS. Invited oral presentation at the Living LFS Family Summer Camp, Mt. Gilead, OH.
4. **Wilsnack, C.** (May 2023). Results from a mixed methods study for the psychosocial needs of individuals and families living with Telomere Biology Disorders. Invited oral presentation. Team Telomere Family Summer Camp, Casco, ME.
5. **Wilsnack, C.** (May 2023). Navigating grief. Invited oral presentation at the Team Telomere Family Summer Camp, Casco, ME.
6. **Wilsnack, C.** (May 2023). General mental health and coping for caregivers without a TBD. Invited oral presentation at the Team Telomere Family Summer Camp, Casco, ME.
7. **Wilsnack, C.** (May 2023). General mental health and coping for those with a TBD. Invited oral presentation at the Team Telomere Family Summer Camp, Casco, ME.
8. **Wilsnack, C.** (May 2023). How to find the right therapist. Invited oral presentation at virtual webinar for monthly may series Living LFS.
9. **Wilsnack, C.** (October 2022). Managing grief & loss. Invited oral presentation at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Li-Fraumeni Syndrome Association Symposium, Rockville, MD.
10. **Wilsnack, C.** (October 2022). Coping & caring: mental health and LFS. Invited oral presentation at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Li-Fraumeni Syndrome Association Symposium, Rockville, MD.
11. Werner-Lin, A., Rising, C. J., Forbes Shepherd, R., & **Wilsnack, C.** (October 2022). Life with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome: Findings from the National Cancer Institute adolescent and young adult study. Invited oral presentation at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Li-Fraumeni Syndrome Association Symposium, Rockville, MD.

12. **Wilsnack, C.** (August 2022). Caring for (your) mental health & well-being. Invited oral presentation at the Living LFS Family Summer Camp, Empire, CO.
13. **Wilsnack, C.** (August 2022). Coping with grief & bereavement. Invited oral presentation at the Living LFS Family Summer Camp, Empire, CO.
14. **Wilsnack, C.** (August 2022). Caring for the caregivers. Invited oral presentation at the Living LFS Family Summer Camp, Empire, CO.
15. **Wilsnack, C.** (October 2019). Coping and mental health with LFS. Invited oral presentation at the Living LFS Family Summer Camp, Gold Creek, MO.

### **PEER-REVIEWED ORAL PRESENTATIONS** *\*presenting author*

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1. Rising, C. J.\*, **Wilsnack, C.**, Pearce, E. E., Forbes Shepherd, R., Thompson, A. S., Majid, A., Werner-Lin, A., Savage, S.A., & Hutson, S. P. (2024). Needs assessment of adults and family caregivers of individuals with telomere biology disorders: a mixed methods study. Team Telomere Scientific Summit, Worley, ID.
2. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Philips, F., Van Diest, H., Aguirre, A., & Jones, B. L. (2024). The dual role for oncology social work clinician-researchers. 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Oncology Social Work Conference, Virtual.
3. Killian, M.\*, Acquati, C.\*, **Wilsnack, C.\***, & Anderson, K.\* (2024). Interpersonal communication processes among adolescents and young adults in healthcare. Symposium co-organizer and discussant. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC.
4. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Chen, Q., Philips, F., & Jones, B. L. (2024). Adolescent and young adult cancer survivors & patient advisory boards: An exploratory study for multilevel interpersonal communication. Oral presentation; Symposium “Interpersonal communication processes among adolescents and young adults in healthcare.” 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC.
5. Moro, T.\*, Petruzzi, L. J., McFadden, A., **Wilsnack, C.**, Chen, Q., Franceschini, D., Guan, T., Nelson, K., Otis-Green, S., Jones, B. L. (2024). Value of social work in care management: Current research and future directions. Oral presentation. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC.
6. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Rising, C. J., Forbes Shepherd, R., Pearce, E. E., Thompson, A. S., Werner-Lin, A., Savage, S.A., & Hutson, S. P. (2023). Unmet psychosocial needs among individuals with a telomere biology disorder: A mixed-methods study. Oral presentation. 17<sup>th</sup> International Meeting on Psychosocial Aspects of Hereditary Cancer. Rockville, MD.
7. Forbes Shepherd, R.\*, Rising, C. J., Boyd, P., **Wilsnack, C.**, Sleight, A. G., Thompson, A. S., Khincha, P. P., Werner-Lin, A. (2023). A focus on the mental health of young people with inherited cancer syndromes: a mixed-method study of Li-Fraumeni syndrome. Oral

- presentation. 17<sup>th</sup> International Meeting on Psychosocial Aspects of Hereditary Cancer. Rockville, MD.
8. Rising, C. J.\*, Coffaro, A., Huelsnitz, C. O., Forbes Shepherd, R., **Wilsnack, C.**, Sleight, A. G., Boyd, P., Khincha, P. P., Werner-Lin, A. (2023). Body image, health behaviors, and health-related quality of life in young people with inherited multi-organ cancer risk: A call for mindful self-compassion-focused interventions. Oral presentation. 17<sup>th</sup> International Meeting on Psychosocial Aspects of Hereditary Cancer. Rockville, MD.
  9. Forbes Shepherd, R.\*, Rising, C. J., Boyd, P., **Wilsnack, C.**, Sleight, A. G., Thompson, A. S., Khincha, P. P., Werner-Lin, A. (2023). Mental health of adolescents and young adults with an inherited cancer syndrome: a mixed-method study of Li-Fraumeni syndrome. Oral presentation. Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
  10. Yu, A. P. L.\*, & **Wilsnack, C.** (2023). The effectiveness of family-centered care as an intervention in pediatric cancer populations for improving families' well-being and reducing burden: A systematic review. Oral presentation. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ.
  11. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Young, J., Merrill, S., Groner, V., Bremer, R. C., Greene, M., Khincha, P.P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2022). Reproductive beliefs in the context of hereditary cancer: Families with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS). Oral presentation. 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Oncology Social Work Conference. Raleigh, NC
  12. Werner-Lin, A., **Wilsnack, C.\***, Young, J., Merrill, S., Groner, V., Loud, J., Bremer, R. C., Peters, J. A., Greene, M., & Khincha, P.P. (2022). Waiting and "Weighted Down": the Challenge of Anticipatory Loss for Individuals and Families with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome. Oral presentation. 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Oncology Social Work Conference. Raleigh, NC
  13. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Fishstein, A., Rising, C., Boyd, P., Sleight, A., Khincha, P.P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2022). Identity formation in adolescents and young adults with a rare hereditary cancer syndrome: "I'm scared to go have dreams." Oral presentation. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas AYA Oncology Conference, Virtual.
  14. Werner-Lin, A.\*, Rising, C. J., **Wilsnack, C.**, Boyd, P., Sleight, A., Hutson, S. P., Khincha, P. P. (2022). Cancer Risk Perceptions of Adolescents and Young Adults with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome: "You Do Not Know If You Have Lived Half Your Life Already." Oral presentation, Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Washington, DC.
  15. Rising, C.\*, Boyd, P., Forbes Shepherd, R., **Wilsnack, C.**, Sleight, A., Hutson, S., Khincha, P.P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2022). Perceptions of Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS) are associated with reported mental health in adolescents and young adults with LFS: A mixed methods study. Oral presentation. 22<sup>nd</sup> International Psycho-Oncology Society. Toronto, Canada.
  16. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Rising, C., Sleight, A., Boyd, P., Khincha, P. P., Werner-Lin, A. (2021). Breaking through barriers: Identifying healthcare challenges for adolescents and young adults living with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome. Oral presentation; Symposium: "Studying the

Lived Experience of Transitioning to Adulthood in the Context of Cancer: Embodied Research in Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology.” 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Virtual.

17. Rising, C.\*, **Wilsnack, C.**, Boyd, P., Sleight, A., Hutson, S., Khincha, P.P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2021). Challenging interactions with family about Li-Fraumeni syndrome experienced by adolescents and young adults. Oral presentation. 71<sup>st</sup> Annual International Communication Association Virtual Conference.
18. Rising, C.\*, **Wilsnack, C.**, Boyd, P., Sleight, A., Hutson, S., Khincha, P.P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2020). Family communication about Li-Fraumeni syndrome: Perspectives of adolescents and young adults. Oral presentation. 42<sup>nd</sup> Society of Behavioral Medicine Virtual Conference.
19. Werner-Lin, A.\*, Young, J., Merrill, S., **Wilsnack, C.**, Groner, V., Loud, J., Bremer, R, C., Peters, J. A., Greene, M., & Khincha, P.P. (2019). Complicated grief in family life with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome. Oral presentation. 16<sup>th</sup> International Meeting on Psychosocial Aspects of Hereditary Cancer. Leiden, Netherlands.
20. Werner-Lin, A.\*, Merrill, S., Young, J. L., **Wilsnack, C.**, Groner, V., Loud, J., Bremer, R. C., Peters, J. A., Greene, M. H., Khincha, P. P. (2019). “Hit in the gut”: Grief and loss among families living with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome. Oral presentation. 52<sup>nd</sup> European Society for Human Genetics, Gothenburg, Sweden.

#### **PEER-REVIEWED POSTER PRESENTATIONS** *\*presenting author*

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1. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Chen, Q., Philips, F., & Jones, B. L. (2024). An exploratory study for how adolescent and young adult cancer patient advisory boards shape patient experiences. 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Interprofessional Health Showcase at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
2. **Wilsnack, C.\***, & Cubbin, C. (2024). The relationship between race/ethnicity and age on medical financial hardship for cancer survivors in the United States. Duke Cancer Institute (DCI) Invited Scholar Research Symposium, Durham, NC.
3. Rising, C. J.\*, Huelsnitz, C. O., Forbes Shepherd, R., Klein, W. M. P., **Wilsnack, C.**, Sleight, A. G., Boyd, P., Khincha, P. P., Werner-Lin, A. (2024). Self-concept, body acceptance, and emotional challenges in young people with an inherited cancer predisposition syndrome. 81<sup>st</sup> American Psychosomatic Society Annual Meeting, Brighton, UK.
4. **Wilsnack, C.\*** & Cubbin, C. (2023). A structural intersectionality framework to consider the relationship between medical financial hardship and cancer survivors in the United States. American Public Health Association, Atlanta, GA.
5. Thompson, A. S.\*, Rising, C. J., Boyd, P., **Wilsnack, C.**, Forbes Shepherd, R., Khincha, P. P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2023). De novo experience of individuals with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome: “Sometimes the people in your family are never going to be the ones who



- understand best.” European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) Annual Conference, Glasgow, Scotland.
6. Rising, C. J.\*, **Wilsnack, C.**, Pearce, E. E., Forbes Shepherd, R., Thompson, A. S., Werner-Lin, A., Savage, S.A., Hutson, S. P. (2023). Parent-caregiver experiences navigating telomere biology disorder-related social support with family and friends. Poster presentation. 17th International Meeting on Psychosocial Aspects of Hereditary Cancer. Rockville, MD.
  7. Rising, C. J.\*, Huelsnitz, C. O., Sleight, A., Boyd, P., **Wilsnack, C.**, Feldman, A., Klein, C., Forbes Shepherd, R., Hutson, S., Khincha, P. P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2023). “I feel disconnected, but also more in tune:” Relationships with body in young people with hereditary multi-organ cancer risk. Poster presentation. Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
  8. **Wilsnack, C.\*** & Cubbin, C. (2023). Does race/ethnicity affect how cancer survivors experience medical financial hardship in the United States? Poster presentation. 21st Annual St. David’s CHPR Conference. Austin, TX.
  9. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Rising, C.J., Forbes Shepherd, R., Thompson, A. S., Hutson, S. P., Werner-Lin, A., & Savage, S.A. (2023). The complexity of psychosocial burden and needs for an understudied rare disease. Poster presentation. 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ.
  10. Rising, C. J.\*, Sleight, A. G., Boyd, P., **Wilsnack C.**, Feldman, A., Klein, C., Forbes Shepherd, R., Hutson, S. P., Khincha, P. P., & Werner-Lin, A. (2022). Cancer prevention beliefs and health behaviors of adolescents and young adults with Li-Fraumeni syndrome. Poster presentation, 43rd Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine. Baltimore, MD.
  11. Forbes Shepherd, R.\*, Rising, C. J., Boyd, P., **Wilsnack, C.**, Sleight, A. G., Thompson, A. S., Khincha, P. P., Werner-Lin, A. (2022). Mental health of adolescents and young adults with Li-Fraumeni syndrome: Results from a mixed methods study. Poster presentation, European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) Annual Conference, Vienna, Austria.
  12. Thompson, A. S.\* , Rising, C. J., Boyd, P., **Wilsnack, C.**, Sleight, A. G., Forbes Shepherd, R., Khincha, P. P., Werner-Lin, A. (2022). De Novo Experience of Individuals with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome: “Sometimes the people in your family are never going to be the ones who understand best.” Poster presentation, European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) Annual Conference, Vienna, Austria.
  13. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Rising, C. J., Boyd, P., Sleight, A., Hutson, S. P., ...& Werner-Lin, A. (2021). Coping with healthcare needs among adolescents and young adults with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS): “You’re having to put up a fight to take care of your health.” Poster presentation. 54th European Human Genetics Virtual Conference.
  14. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Werner-Lin, A., Rising, C. J., Boyd, P., Sleight, A., ...& Khincha, P. P. (2020). Supporting reproductive decision making for adolescents and young adults with Li-

Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS): Interprofessional perspectives from a U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI) study. Poster presentation. 53rd European Human Genetics Virtual Conference.

15. Doyle, M.\*, **Wilsnack, C.**, Werner-Lin, A. (2020). Building sustainable partnerships with rare disease groups to accelerate genomic research. Poster presentation, 5th Annual Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) Congress. Columbia University, NY (Canceled due to COVID 19).
16. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Sleight, A. Young, J., Greene, M.H., Khincha, P. P., Groner, V., Werner-Lin, A. (2020). Health behavior change is related to management of cancer worry for families with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome: “If you just change your diet, you’re going to get cured.” Poster presentation, 17th American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS). Portland, OR (Canceled due to COVID 19).
17. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Werner-Lin, A., Young, J., Merrill, S., Groner, V., Loud, J., Bremer, R, C., Peters, J. A., Greene, M., & Khincha, P.P. (2020). Identity as a clinical tool in families with a rare genetic cancer syndrome: “No one’s like us mutants.” Poster presentation, 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR). Washington, DC.
18. **Wilsnack, C.\***, Werner-Lin, A., Young, J., Merrill, S., Groner, V., Loud, J., Bremer, R, C., Peters, J. A., Greene, M., & Khincha, P.P. (2019). The use of identity as a clinical tool in families with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome. Poster presentation. 16th International Meeting on Psychosocial Aspects of Hereditary Cancer. Leiden, Netherlands.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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**Doctoral Candidate, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX**

August 2021- Present

- Exploration of AYA Patient Advisory Councils Study [PI: Barbara L. Jones]  
Role: *Project Lead*
  - Responsibilities: implement IRB-approved protocol, coordinate and maintain participant data, conduct open-ended, narrative interviews, develop qualitative codebook, perform thematic analysis, coordinate interprofessional communication and meetings between study sites at MD Anderson Cancer center, Livestrong Institute, and Dell Medical School, and disseminate findings for international and national scientific presentations and peer-reviewed publications.
- Cancer Care and Health Equity Research Lab [PI: Lailea Noel]  
Role: *Project Lead*
  - Responsibilities: serve as project lead and data analyst on multiple projects in lab, lead a project that focuses on pre/post advocacy intervention design with African American and Latinx breast cancer patients at UT Health Austin, implement IRB-approved protocol, coordinate and maintain participant data, conduct descriptive analyses, coordinate interprofessional communication

between study sites at UT Health Austin and another Texas based cancer center.

***Cancer Research Training Award Fellow, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, Clinical Genetics Branch at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Rockville, MD, USA***

July 2019- August 2021

- Li-Fraumeni Syndrome Family Study [PI: Payal Khincha]
  - Role: *Qualitative Data Analyst*
    - Responsibilities: developed qualitative codebook, performed grounded theory analysis, participated in weekly interprofessional team meetings, disseminated findings for international and national scientific presentations and peer-reviewed publications.
  
- Adolescent and Young Adult Li-Fraumeni Study [PI: Payal Khincha]
  - Role: *Project Manager*
    - Responsibilities: implemented IRB-approved protocol, coordinated and maintained participant data, conducted open-ended, narrative interviews, developed qualitative codebook, performed thematic analysis, participated in weekly interprofessional team meetings, disseminated findings for international and national scientific presentations and peer-reviewed publications, and assisted in quantitative survey development.
  
- Telomere Biology Disorders Needs Assessment [PI: Sharon Savage]
  - Role: *Project Lead*
    - Responsibilities: led development of mixed methods protocol, prepared IRB documents for submission, adapted validated quantitative measures for online survey, created semi-structured interview guide, coordinated and maintained participant data, conducted open-ended interviews, developed qualitative codebook, performed qualitative and quantitative analysis, participated in weekly interprofessional team meetings, maintained partnership with patient advocacy group.

***Research Assistant, School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA,***

May 2018- June 2019

- IRB-approved and NIH-affiliated study with Allison Werner-Lin, Ph.D., LCSW.
- Conducted qualitative coding of interviews with families diagnosed with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome.
- Attended interprofessional meetings with research team to organize project plans and analyze data.

***Research Assistant, UNC School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, NC***

September 2016 – April 2018

- IRB-approved dissertation research of Jennifer O'Brien, MSW, LCSW.
- Transcribed and coded interviews of domestic minor sex-trafficking survivors.
- Collaborated on organizing data and developing published manuscript addressing short- and long-term needs of survivors of sex-trafficking.

## **TEACHING INTERESTS**

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Advanced clinical practice; palliative and end of life care; social work in healthcare; interdisciplinary healthcare; grief, loss, and family bereavement; human behavior and the social environment; introduction to research methods

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### ***Teaching Assistant, The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School***

August 2021- May 2022

- Foundations for Interprofessional Collaboration Practice [Instructor: Barbara L. Jones, PhD]
  - Collaborated with instructors from four different professional schools
  - Managed grades and attendance records for the social work students
  - Facilitated groups weekly on interdisciplinary healthcare topics

### ***Teaching Assistant, The University of Pennsylvania, MSW Program, Online***

August 2020- May 2021

- Human Behavior in the Social Environment [Instructor: Melanie Masin-Moyer, DSW]
  - Assisted instructor via zoom during class meeting times
  - Facilitated discussion among entire class and in groups
  - Graded major assignments and exams
- Introduction to Social Work Research [Instructor: Melanie Masin-Moyer, DSW]
  - Assisted instructor via zoom during class meeting times
  - Facilitated discussion among entire class and in groups
  - Graded major assignments and exams

## **GUEST LECTURES**

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1. **Wilsnack, C.** (April 2024). Qualitative methods and direct practice implications. The University of Texas at Austin. Invited guest lecture, Qualitative methods, undergraduate course.
2. **Wilsnack, C.** (September 2023). Meaning reconstruction. The University of Texas at Austin. Invited guest lecture, Grief and Loss, undergraduate course.
3. **Wilsnack, C.** (February 2023). Disenfranchised grief. The University of Texas at Austin. Invited guest lecture, Grief and Loss, undergraduate course.
4. **Wilsnack, C.** (January 2023). Pity, sympathy, empathy: What is the difference? The University of Texas at Austin. Invited guest lecture, Aesthetics of Health Class, undergraduate course.
5. **Wilsnack, C.** (November 2022). Hospice care. The University of Texas at Austin. Invited guest lecture, Social Work in Healthcare, MSW course.

6. **Wilsnack, C.** (October 2022). Adolescent and young adult identity development. The University of Texas at Austin. Invited guest lecture, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, MSW course.
7. **Wilsnack, C.** (March 2021). Qualitative analysis. The University of Pennsylvania. Invited guest lecture, Introduction to Social Work Research, MSW course.
8. **Wilsnack, C.** (November 2020). Life course and lifespan theories. The University of Pennsylvania. Invited guest lecture, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, MSW course.

## **PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

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### ***Mental Health Clinician, The Modalities Group, Bowie, MD***

May 2020-September 2024

- Practiced under the supervision of an LCSW-C with weekly supervision meetings
- Served as general mental health clinician with specialties in grief and loss
- Completed weekly documentation for progress notes and treatment plans

### ***Social Work Intern, Penn Medicine Hospice, Philadelphia, PA***

September 2018 – April 2019

- Worked on interdisciplinary team that evaluated patient and family needs for safe discharge planning
- Provided emotional support and conflict mediation to grieving patients and families
- Assessed patient's care needs in the home and honored right to self-determination

### ***Social Work Intern, Penn Medicine Neurology Department, Philadelphia, PA***

September 2017 - April 2018

- Worked on interdisciplinary team for the Neurology Department and Penn Memory Center
- Provided education and short- and long-term care planning, and support to patients and caregivers
- Co-facilitated a support group for patients diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment, a support group for caregivers, and a caregiver psycho-education class

## **STUDENT MENTORING**

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August 2023 – present

Mentor and provide qualitative analysis training for undergraduate student, Halena Rios

August 2021- May 2022

Mentor and provide qualitative analysis training for Master's in Social Work student, Adelaide Fishstein

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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September 2023-August 2024	Doctoral Program Committee Student representative
August 2022-December 2023	Student Task Force: Anti-Racist School Policies & Practices Steve Hicks School of Social Work The University of Texas at Austin
January 2022-present	Journal Peer Reviewer <i>Health: An interdisciplinary journal for the social study of health, illness, and medicine</i>
December 2021-present	Journal Peer Reviewer <i>Journal of Psychosocial Oncology</i>
August 2021-present	Journal Peer Reviewer <i>Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research</i>
October 2020-present	Journal Peer Reviewer <i>Qualitative Health Research</i>

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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April 2023-present	<p><b><i>Mental Health Workshop Facilitator, Team Telomere</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help plan, organize, and prepare for annual family camp that the patient advocacy hosts</li> <li>• Facilitate workshops, and provided one-on-one consultations about mental health, for family camp attendees</li> <li>• Facilitate virtual webinars about mental health throughout the year for community members</li> </ul>
March 2022-present	<p><b><i>Psychosocial Advisor on Board of Directors, Living LFS</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as a board member for this non-profit, patient advocacy group</li> <li>• Serve as psychosocial advisor for developing accessible mental health related resources for populations living with LFS in the United States</li> <li>• Attend monthly meetings and work on service projects, such as family camp for the organization, facilitating monthly webinar series on mental health, and managing a Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee</li> </ul>
October 2019-present	<p><b><i>Mental Health Workshop Facilitator, Living LFS</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend organization's family camp to provide mental health services for families</li> <li>• Facilitate mental health workshop and therapeutic support for two separate groups</li> </ul>

- Serve as ongoing mental health clinician consultant

October 2019-present

***Mental Health Facilitator and Consultant, LFSA***

- Facilitated mental health workshop and therapeutic support for two separate groups at the LFSA conference in October 2022
- Collaborated with patients and multidisciplinary care teams to identify major mental health themes
- Created deliverable [mental health fact sheet](#) for individuals with LFS to use in local encounters with clinicians

## **TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

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Spring 2023	Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care (SSWLHC) academy. Training at the SSWLHC, Virtual. Received Leadership Certificate.
Fall 2022	Teaching preparation series. Training at The University of Texas at Austin: Faculty Innovation Center, Austin, TX. Received Teaching Certificate.
Summer 2019	The Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI): Human Subjects Research. Training at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD. Received CITI Certification.

## **LICENSURE**

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***Licensed Master Social Worker***, May 2019-Present

- Maryland [license #25254; NPI #1649890419]

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
- Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW)
- American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS)
- European Society for Human Genetics (ESHG)
- American Public Health Association (APHA)