

Daniel Wikstrom

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EDUCATION

B.A., Psychology | George Washington University, Columbian College of Arts & Sciences
Aug 2018 – Dec 2021, GPA: 3.60 (Major: 3.72), Magna Cum Laude

AWARDS & HONORS

Young Investigator Day – *Children's Tumor Foundation* (2025)
Health Disparities Travel Award – *NCI Center for Cancer Research* (2024)
Cancer Research Training Award – *NCI Center for Cancer Research* (2023 – Present)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Health Psychology and Neurobehavioral Research Program | Pediatric Oncology Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Postbaccalaureate Fellow / Trainee (Cancer Research Training Award), Sep 2023 – Present

Mentors: Staci Martin, PhD (clinical psychology), Pamela Wolters, PhD (pediatric psychology), Robin Lockridge, PhD (clinical neuropsychology)

- Executed protocol support services for 10 active protocols, including randomized clinical trials, cross-sectional research, and natural history studies.
- Organized and adapted study materials for the successful IRB approval of four new research protocols and two protocol amendments.
- Designed and implemented an online survey using advanced branching logic in SurveyMonkey, enabling tailored data collection from young adults with cancer and caregivers of adolescents and young adults (AYA) with cancer in English and Spanish.
- Evaluated 20+ prospective participants with Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1) and their caregivers for study eligibility.
- Performed cognitive debriefing and semi-structured interviews with adult participants for a qualitative research study on the impact of visible tumors on individuals with NF1.
- Supported 10+ AYA and adult study participants in installing and testing an app to assess pain and quality of life for the validation of a novel disease-specific measure of NF1 tumor-related pain.
- Created reproducible dashboards with R for biweekly recruitment reports and led study meetings that reviewed these reports to inform the team's recruitment decisions in a cross-sectional study on modifiable barriers to families' enrollment in pediatric oncology clinical trials.
- Cleaned and standardized quantitative and qualitative datasets for 5+ research studies, analyzing and reporting on descriptive statistics.
- Wrote R code to clean and merge data from multiple clinical trials, increasing statistical power to assess associations of pain during testing with processing speed, working memory, and executive functioning in patients with sickle cell disease before and after stem cell transplants.
- Collaborated with industry partners to convert SAS procedures into R code, enabling the scoring of cognitive test batteries with a discontinued scoring API for a randomized controlled trial of exercise and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy with pediatric brain tumor patients (NCT02153957).
- Translated a scoring algorithm from SPSS syntax into R code for a measure of health literacy.
- Conducted literature reviews, including reviewing 80+ articles for a scoping review of demographic reporting in published pediatric oncology RCTs.

MBO Partners, Ashburn, VA

Scientific Resource Specialist / Program Analyst (Private Contract), Feb. 2023 – Sep. 2023

Mentor: Anna Han, PhD (social psychology)

- Cleaned and analyzed trainee-related data for 10 professional development programs at the NIH.

- Analyzed survey data ($N > 800$) from trainees in Excel; prepared aggregate reports using R/RStudio.
- Created reproducible reports for NIH leadership using RStudio and Quarto.
- Created a presentation in PowerPoint on attendee demographics for professional development programs offered by the NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education.

Strategic Health Advisors, LLC, Bloomfield, NJ

Public Health Researcher (Private Contract), Feb 2023 – Aug 2023

Mentor: Lisa A. Harrison-Gulla, DrPH, MPH (public health)

- Analyzed staff survey data from a local health department to inform tailored workforce development programming.
- Conducted secondary data analysis of local, county, and state public health data using R.
- Cleaned and analyzed data from a community-stakeholder survey ($N > 1,000$) measuring unmet social need in an urban county in New Jersey using R.
- Worked with a team of public health professionals and MPH students to conduct thematic content analyses of focus groups with community health stakeholders, including healthcare workers and health advocates.
- Presented findings of a NJ county's Community Health Assessment for accreditation by the US's public health advisory board.

George Washington University, Dept. of Psychological & Brain Sciences, Washington, DC

Supervised Independent Research (Volunteer), Aug 2020 – Apr 2024

Mentors: Stephen Forssell, PhD (developmental psychology), Philip Wirtz, PhD (applied social psychology, statistics)

- Conducted independent research on parental attachment security and responses to children's disclosure of a non-heterosexual orientation (i.e., coming out).
- Reviewed 100+ journal articles on attachment, identity development, family systems theory, LGBTQ+ families, and coming out to identify gaps in the literature and prospectively develop a theoretical model to generate falsifiable hypotheses.
- Performed data entry, cleaning, transformations, and statistical analyses in SAS, modeling associations between attachment security, family functioning, religiosity, and political ideology with caregivers' responses to a child's coming out.
- Analyzed qualitative data to identify themes in caregiver narratives of their child's coming out, adding context to quantitative findings.
- Drafted and revised an original research article with coauthors, contributing to successful publication in *LGBTQ+ Family: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

The New School for Social Research, The Center for Attachment Research, New York, NY

Research Assistant (Volunteer), Feb 2022 – Aug 2022

Mentors: Howard Steele, PhD (clinical psychology), Miriam Steele, PhD (clinical psychology)

- Manualized coding of semi-structured interviews to evaluate body representation, attachment security, and disability identity development in adults with congenital and acquired physical disabilities.
- Manualized coding of parent-child dyads during free-play sessions to assess responsiveness to an attachment-based parenting intervention with at-risk parents.
- Manualized coding of reflective functioning in transcribed Adult Attachment Interviews collected during a randomized controlled trial for an attachment-based parenting intervention.

North Jersey Health Collaborative, Budd Lake, NJ

Public Health Researcher / Administrator (Private Contract), Jun 2020 – Aug 2024

Mentors: Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, BN, MSM (public policy), Maureen Cianci, BSN (public health nursing)

- Conducted and reported on quantitative analyses of community health data to examine disease prevalence and mortality, health behaviors, healthcare utilization, and socioeconomic status; identified statistically significant health disparities by location, sex, age, race, and ethnicity.
- Presented quantitative analyses and data visualizations in monthly interdisciplinary meetings with

county health officers, epidemiologists, public health nurses, and regional hospital system staff.

- Prepared narrative reports for five counties' Community Health Assessments for submission to the New Jersey State Department of Health.
- Partnered with the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey to develop culturally relevant educational materials for a Project ECHO cancer screening education program targeting underserved populations (rural, Hispanic/Latine, LGBTQ+, and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities).
- Supervised 12 MPH student interns conducting secondary data collection and analysis for use in future Community Health Assessments.
- Independently conceptualized and conducted a secondary data analysis to investigate the relationship between area-level income and body mass index in a community sample of children in grades K-6 in a rural New Jersey county for submission to the county department of health.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Postbaccalaureate Fellow (Cancer Research Training Award), Sep 2023 – Present

Supervisors: Staci Martin, PhD (clinical psychology), Clara Ko (clinical psychology)

- Participated in biweekly group supervision meetings with psychology team members (clinical psychologists, externs, psychometrists), including leading mindfulness exercises.
- Participated in routine case presentations, reviewing raw and standard scores of neuropsychological assessments, and contributing to discussions about participants' relative strengths and weaknesses.
- Prepared materials for and observed neuropsychological assessments of children and adults participating in research at the NIH (Sickle Cell Disease and Neurofibromatosis Type 1).
 - Child Assessments:
 - Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (4th and 5th ed.); Wide Range Assessment of Memory and Learning (3rd ed.); California Verbal Learning Test for Children; Symbol Digit Modalities Test; Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (D-KEFS)
 - Adult Assessments:
 - Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (2nd ed.); Hopkins Verbal Learning Test (Revised); Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (4th ed.); California Verbal Learning Test-II; DKEFS; Ruff 2 & 7 Selective Attention Test; Grooved Pegboard Test
 - Child Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs):
 - Conners (4th ed.); Social Responsiveness Scale (2nd ed.); Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) Anxiety Short Form; PROMIS Depression Short Form; PROMIS Sleep Disturbance Short Form; Visual Analog Scale for Pain
 - Adult PROMs:
 - Conners Adult ADHD Rating Scales (2nd ed.); Social Responsiveness Scale (2nd ed.); Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function (1st ed.); PROMIS Anxiety Short Form; PROMIS Depression Short Form; PROMIS Sleep Disturbance Short Form; Visual Analog Scale for Pain

GWU – LGBT Health Policy & Practice Graduate Certificate Program, Washington, DC

Intern (student, volunteer) May 2019 – Dec 2019

Supervisor: Stephen Forssell, PhD (developmental psychology)

- Conducted data analysis on post-test questionnaires for student feedback on their graduate courses in LGBTQ+ cultural competency, health policy, and clinical care.
- Assisted with administrative tasks, including designing marketing campaigns using social media management and email marketing software, reaching over one thousand individuals.
- Supervised student volunteer teams for the production of GWU's GLAMA award-winning 2019 LGBT Health Forum.

The DC Center (LGBTQ+ Community Center), Washington, D.C.

Front Desk Staff (Volunteer) Sep 2019 – Dec 2019

Supervisors: Justin Johns (Office Administrator)

- Operated as the point of contact for visitors, providing a warm and welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ community members attending peer-support groups and community events.
- Answered phone calls, connecting callers to office staff and, as needed, provided referrals to inclusive social services (e.g., LGBTQ+ homeless shelters).
- Assisted with public-facing communications by updating the organization's newsletter and event calendars.

7 Cups of Tea (Virtual Text-Based Warmline), San Mateo, CA

Trained Active Listener (Volunteer), August 2018 – July 2020

Supervisor: 7 Cups of Tea Support Staff

- Received training on active listening, social support, and providing referrals to licensed therapists when user needs are beyond the warmline's scope.
- Provided emotional support to individuals 13 years and older experiencing mild stress, low mood, and interpersonal challenges.

Valley Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Care, Palliative Care & Oncology Social Work, Paramus, NJ

Intern (volunteer), June 2018 – August 2018

Supervisor: Brooke Laster, LCSW, ACT (Social Work)

- Shadowed the director of palliative care on hospital rounds and psychosocial health screenings.
- Attended weekly care management meetings with the departments' directors of psychiatry, nursing, and palliative care.
- Observed and assisted with peer-support groups and group meditation sessions with survivors of metastatic breast cancer.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

NCI Pediatric Oncology Branch, Diversity Working Group (2023 – 2025) | Co-chair – Patient Engagement Subcommittee; Member – Training and Education Subcommittee; Member – Mentorship Subcommittee

NIH LGBTQIA+ Friends and Fellows (2023 – 2025) | Member

Sussex County Child Health Crisis Workgroup (2023) | Member, Consultant

New Jersey Rural Health Advisory Council (2023) | Member

Morris-Somerset Regional Chronic Disease Coalition (2023) | Member

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Peer Reviewer:

Journal of Family Psychology. Ad-hoc. (2025).

Certifications:

- Translational Research in Clinical Oncology. (2025) *National Cancer Institute*.
- Qualitative Research Methods for Public Health. (2024). *Emory University via Coursera*.
- Introduction to Probability and Data with R. (2023). *Duke University via Coursera*.
- Health Equity in Substance Use Disorder Treatment & Prevention (DL). (2023). *New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports*.
- Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research, Course 1. (2021). *CITI Program*.
- Mental Health First Aid Certification. (2021). *Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris*.
- Social and Behavioral Research. (2020). *CITI Program*.

Continuing Education:

Health Psychology

Unlocking the Future of Health Behavior Theory: Toward Innovations in Understanding and Practice. (2025) *Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health.*

Statistics & Data Analysis

Statistical Inference: Frequentist Approach Part 1 of 2. (2025) *Biostatistics & Clinical Epidemiology Services, NIH Clinical Center.*

A Review of Epidemiology Concepts and Statistics. (2025) *Biostatistics & Clinical Epidemiology Services, NIH Clinical Center.*

Meta-Analysis: Quantifying a Systematic Review. (2025) *Biostatistics & Clinical Epidemiology Services, NIH Clinical Center.*

Exploratory and Inferential Spatial Statistical Methods: Tools to Understand the Geography of Health Across the U.S. (2023) *NIH Office of Disease Prevention; Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University.*

R Programming

Clustering with R and RStudio. (2025) *Bioinformatics Training and Education Program, National Cancer Institute.*

Quarto in R for Scholarly Publishing: Working with Citations. (2023) *Office of Research Services, National Institutes of Health.*

Quarto in R for Scholarly Publishing: Advanced Formatting. (2023) *Office of Research Services, National Institutes of Health.*

Introduction to Quarto in R for Scholarly Publishing. (2023) *Office of Research Services, National Institutes of Health.*

Conduct of Science

How to Make Your Data FAIR. (2025) *Office of Research Services, National Institute of Health.*

Research Ethics 2023: Authorship, Collaborations, and Mentoring. (2023) *Pediatric Oncology Branch, National Cancer Institute.*

SKILLS

Survey design and data collection:

- Completed eligibility screenings with adults and caregivers of children with a chronic illness.
- Assisted patients and caregivers in completing patient-reported outcome measures per study protocol.
- Developed online surveys using branch-logic in Qualtrics, Survey Monkey, and proprietary survey platforms.
- Performed recruitment tasks through email, social media, and video conferencing.

Quantitative data cleaning and analysis (R, SPSS, SAS):

- Cleaning and appending datasets (long and wide formats).
- Computing composite variables.
- Assessing normality visually and with null-hypothesis significance tests.
- Data scaling and transformation (percentiles, z-scores, transformations).
- Parametric analyses (Pearson's correlation, *t*-tests, simple, multiple, and stepwise regression, hierarchical linear modeling).
- Non-parametric analyses (Spearman's correlation, Wilcoxon rank-sum test, Mann-Whitney U test; mediation analysis with resampling using PROCESS Macro in SAS and SPSS).

Qualitative data collection:

- Cognitive debriefing
- Semi-structured interviews
- Focus groups
- Recording and transcribing semi-structured interviews
- Open-ended survey questions

Qualitative data analysis:

- Manualized qualitative coding
- Content coding and analysis
- Thematic analysis codebook development
- Reflexive, inductive, and deductive coding techniques

PRESENTATIONS

- (2025) **NCI Pediatric Oncology Branch, Health Psychology and Neurobehavioral Research Program** | Visualizing (non)normality with the exsampler package | *Lab Presentation*
- (2024) **NCI Pediatric Oncology Branch, Diversity Working Group** | The complicated inadequacy of race and ethnicity data | *Committee Presentation*
- (2024) **NCI Pediatric Oncology Branch, Health Psychology and Neurobehavioral Research Program** | Attachment theory and coming out | *Lab Presentation*
- (2024) **NCI | CCR, Office of the Clinical Director, Protocol Support Office** | Promoting gender-inclusive protocols at the Center for Cancer Research | *Working Meeting*
- (2023) **The George Washington University, General Psychology 1001** | Attachment theory and coming out. | *Guest Lecture*
- (2023) **New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate** | BMI trends in Sussex County schools: COVID-19, and ALICE households | *Policy Presentation*
- (2023) **NORWESCAP** | BMI trends in Sussex County schools: COVID-19 and ALICE households | *Policy Presentation*

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles:

- Curlee, M. S., Toledo Tamula, M. A., Baker, M., **Wikstrom, D.**, Harrison, C., Rhodes, A., Fagan, M., Tibery, C., Wolters, P. L., Widemann, B. C., Gross, A. M., & Martin, S. (2025). A mixed methods study of medication adherence in adults with neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) on a clinical trial of selumetinib. *Cancers*, 17(2), 295.
- Wikstrom, D.**, Young, B., & Forssell, S. (2024). Does attachment security matter? A study of caregivers' reactions to a child's coming out. *LGBTQ+ Family: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 20(4), 308–320.

Conference Posters:

- Wikstrom, D.**, Curlee, M. S., Toledo-Tamula, M. A., Widemann, B. C., & Martin, S. (2025). A mixed-methods study of medication adherence in adults with neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) on a clinical trial of selumetinib [Conference poster]. *Children's Tumor Foundation Neurofibromatosis Conference*, United States.
- Yogarathnam, A., Melvin, J., Omoteso, O., Martin, S., **Wikstrom, D.**, Little, P., Rweikiza, B., Dufek, A., Stewart, B., Roberts, J., Fisher, M., Kotch, C., Romo, C., & Wolters, P. L. (2025). Validation of novel NF1-specific patient-reported outcome measures to assess pain related to plexiform neurofibromas for clinical trials: Preliminary data analysis [Conference poster]. *Children's Tumor Foundation Neurofibromatosis Conference*, United States.
- Whitmire, R., **Wikstrom, D.**, & Martin, S. (2025). Improving access to pediatric oncology clinical trials: Identifying modifiable enrollment barriers [Conference poster]. *American Society of Clinical Oncology*.

Morales Arana, A., Harney, S., John, L., Martin, S., Livinski, A., Toledo-Tamula, M. A., **Wikstrom, D.**, Cathcart, A., Tyndal, T., Sarmin, F., Weaver, D., Sahai, I., Khalil, S., & Lockridge, R. (2024). Reporting of race and ethnicity in pediatric oncology clinical trials: A scoping review [Conference poster]. *The UC Davis Cancer Center Symposium*.

Software:

Wikstrom, D. (2025). exsampler: Normal simulation guessing game [R package]. <https://wikstromd.github.io/exsampler/index.html>

Manuscripts Submitted:

Whitmire, R., Wikstrom, D., Lockridge, R., Holland, E., Van Sprang, A., Toledo-Tamula, M. A., Akshintala, S., Kaplan, R., Wolters, P., & Martin, S. (2025). Identifying caregiver-reported modifiable barriers to pediatric oncology clinical trial enrollment and participation [Preprint manuscript under review for publication in *Supportive Care in Cancer*]. Authorea. <https://doi.org/10.22541/au.174903860.03889595/v1>

White Papers:

Cianci, M., **Wikstrom, D.**, Pelaez Yepes, C., & Fisher, D. (2023). *ALICE and unhealthy BMI in a community sample of children, grades K–6*. Sussex County Department of Health.

The North Jersey Health Collaborative. (2021a). *Community health needs assessment report: Morris County*.

The North Jersey Health Collaborative. (2021d). *Community health needs assessment report: Passaic County*.

The North Jersey Health Collaborative. (2021c). *Community health needs assessment report: Sussex County*.

The North Jersey Health Collaborative. (2021b). *Community health needs assessment report: Union County*.

The North Jersey Health Collaborative. (2021e). *Community health needs assessment report: Warren County*.

Manuscripts in Preparation:

NCT02153957: A Randomized Controlled Trial Evaluating an Enhanced Physical Activity Intervention to Improve Cognitive Late Effects in Children Treated with Cranial Radiation for Brain Tumors.

Psychological Flexibility and Inflexibility: Relationship with Barriers to Clinical Trial Access, Household Material Hardship, and Health Literacy - Survey Results Among Caregivers of Children with Cancer.

Reporting of Race and Ethnicity in Pediatric Oncology Clinical Trials: A Scoping Review.

Development of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures Assessing Tumor-Related Disfigurement and Appearance Concerns in Neurofibromatosis Type 1: A Qualitative Study.

Pain During Neuropsychological Testing in People with Sickle Cell Disease: Pre-to-Post Stem Cell Transplant.