

Megan R. Wirtz, B.A.

Health Psychology and Clinical Science
Doctoral Program in Psychology
The Graduate Center
City University of New York
New York, New York
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Education

- May 2027
(Expected) **Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY**
PhD in Health Psychology and Clinical Science
Mentor: Jennifer Ford, Ph.D.
- May 2019 **University of Richmond, Richmond, VA**
BA in Psychology and Theatre, Minor in Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Studies, *Magna Cum Laude*
Cumulative GPA: 3.79
Honors Thesis: *It's written all over your face: Examining the relationship between socioeconomic status and empathic accuracy*
Dean's List: All semesters
Dean's List with Distinction: Fall 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2018

Publications

Peer-reviewed publications:

- Stanton, A. M., **Wirtz, M. R.**, Perlson, J. E., & Batchelder, A. W. (2022). "It's how we get to enjoy each other": Substance use, connectedness, and sexual activity among men who have sex with men who are living with HIV. *BMC Public Health*, 22, 425. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-12778-w>
- Sullivan, M. C., **Wirtz, M. R.**, McKetchnie, S. M., Hart, T., Fitch, C. J., Lazkani, S., Boroughs, M., & O'Cleirigh, C. (2021). The impact of depression and post-traumatic stress symptoms on physical health perceptions and functional impairment among sexual minority men living with HIV with histories of trauma. *AIDS Care*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2021.1967852>
- Garey, L., **Wirtz, M. R.**, Labbe, A. K., Zvolensky, M., Smits, J. A. J., Giordano, T. P., Rosenfield, D., Robbins, G. K., Levy, D., McKetchnie, S. M., Bell, T., & O'Cleirigh, C. (2021). Evaluation of an integrated treatment to address smoking cessation and anxiety/depression among people living with HIV: Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *Contemporary Clinical Trials*, 106, 106420. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cct.2021.106420>.
- Batchelder, A. W., Foley, J., **Wirtz, M. R.**, Mayer, K., & O'Cleirigh, C. (2021). Substance use stigma, avoidance coping, and missed HIV appointments among MSM who use substances. *AIDS and Behavior*, 25, 1454-1463. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-02982-3>
- Stanton, A. M., Lee, J. S., **Wirtz, M. R.**, Andersen, L. S., Joska, J., Safren, S. A., van Zyl-Smit, R., & O'Cleirigh, C. (2021). Tobacco use and health-related quality of life among individuals receiving treatment for HIV in Cape Town, South Africa. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 28, 417-430. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12529-020-09951-z>

Book chapters:

- Wirtz, M. R.** (2020). Citizens or heroes: The fall – and rise – of heroic martyrdom. In S. T. Allison (Ed.), *Core concepts in heroism science* (vol. 2, pp. 134-147). Palsgrove.

Under review:

Sullivan, M. C., **Wirtz, M. R.**, McKetchnie, S. M., Jampel, J. D., Merlin, J., Banerjee, N., & O’Cleirigh, C. (under review). Neurocognitive impairment and HIV care engagement in men who have sex with men living with HIV who report chronic pain and substance use.

In preparation:

Wirtz, M. R., Stanton, A. M., Manohar, R., Labbe, A. K., Zvolensky, M. J., Smits, J. A. J., Hoepfner, B., & O’Cleirigh, C. (in preparation). The role of nicotine dependence in the selection of quit attempt method: Tailoring interventions based on population.

Wirtz, M. R., Ahmad, Z., & Ford, J. S. (in preparation). "What if I die and no one had ever romantically loved me?": Sexuality and dating among a sample of AYA cancer survivors.

Wirtz, M. R., Ford, J. S., Revenson, T. A. (in preparation). Integrating psychosocial aspects into the future of chronic pelvic pain treatment: A systematic review.

Hotchkiss, M., Ciniglio, A., **Wirtz, M. R.**, Miron, C. D., & Ford, J. S. (in preparation). Cancer-peer connection in the young adult cancer context: Relocating cancer support to community settings.

Benedict, C., Schaffer, K. M., **Wirtz, M. R.**, Ford, J. S., & Reese, J. B. (in preparation). Addressing sexual health among women with cancer: Recent innovations and new interventions.

Presentations

Symposia:

Stanton, A. M., **Wirtz, M. R.**, O’Cleirigh, C., & Batchelder, A. W. (2021, November). Exploring the intimacy and relationship benefits of substance use in the context of sexual activity among men who have sex with men and are living with HIV: A qualitative analysis. In G. Berlin (Chair), *Drivers of substance use among populations of sexual minority men and women: Social determinants of substance use disparities and indications for culturally informed practice* [Symposium]. Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Virtual.

Poster Presentations:

*Denotes mentored author/presenter

Wirtz, M. R. & Ford, J. S. (2022, November). *Examining the effect of depression on the relationship between health behaviors and body image among childhood cancer survivors*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New York, NY.

Hotchkiss, M., Ciniglio, A., Maria, Z., Ahmad, Z., **Wirtz, M. R.**, Ford, J. S. (2022, November). *Cancer-peer connection in the young adult cancer context: Relocating cancer support to community settings*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New York, NY.

*Maria, Z., **Wirtz, M. R.**, Hotchkiss, M. E., Ahmad, Z. N., & Ford, J. S. (2022, May). *The relationship between medical mistrust and compliancy with follow-up care in Black and Latinx breast cancer survivors*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Conference of the Synergistic Partnership for Enhancing Equity in Cancer Health, Virtual.

Wirtz, M. R., Stanton, A. M., McKetchnie, S. M., Labbe, A. K., Zvolensky, M. J., Smits, J. A. J., & O’Cleirigh, C. (2022, April). *The impact of race, age, and sexual orientation on the relationship between nicotine dependence and selection of quit method*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Baltimore, MD.

Ahmad, Z., Hotchkiss, M., Tzanis, D., **Wirtz, M. R.**, & Ford, J. S. (2022, April). *Oncofertility experiences among young adult female Latina and African-American cancer survivors*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Baltimore, MD.

- Hotchkiss, M., Ahmad, Z., Maria, Z., Ray, E., **Wirtz, M. R.**, & Ford, J. S. (2022, April). *Targeted social media recruitment as a method of sample diversification*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Baltimore, MD.
- Wirtz, M. R.**, McKetchnie, S. M., Kirakosian, N., Labbe, A. K., Zvolensky, M. J., Smits, J. A. J., & O’Cleirigh, C. (2021, November). *The role of nicotine dependence in the selection of quit attempt method*. [Poster presentation]. Behavioral Medicine & Integrated Primary Care SIG at the Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Virtual.
- Kirakosian, N., Stanton, A. M., **Wirtz, M. R.**, McKetchnie, S. M., Boroughs, M. S., Safren, S. A., Ironson, G., O’Cleirigh, C. (2021, November). *Factors associated with HIV risk perception among men with histories of childhood sexual abuse who have sex with men*. [Poster presentation]. Behavioral Medicine & Integrated Primary Care SIG at the Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Virtual.
- Wirtz, M. R.**, McKetchnie, S. M., Hart, T. A., Lazkani, S., Boroughs, M., Fitch, C., Sullivan, M., & O’Cleirigh, C. (2020, November). *The association between posttraumatic cognitions and depression on physical health among sexual minority men living with HIV and histories of trauma who are poorly engaged in HIV care* [Poster presentation]. Anxiety Disorders SIG at the Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Virtual.
- Stanton, A. M., Lee, J. S., Andersen, L. S., **Wirtz, M. R.**, Joska, J. A., Safren, S. A., & O’Cleirigh, C. (2020, November). *Health-related quality of life, condomless sex, and sexual desire in people living with HIV in Cape Town, South Africa* [Poster presentation]. International Association of Providers of AIDS Care, Virtual.
- Stanton, A. M., Lee, J. S., **Wirtz, M. R.**, Andersen, L. S., Joska, J. A., Safren, S. A., van Zyl-Smit, R., & O’Cleirigh, C. (2020, July). *Tobacco use and health-related quality of life among individuals with depression who are receiving treatment for HIV in Cape Town, South Africa* [Poster presentation]. International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2020: Virtual), Virtual.
- Wirtz, M. R.**, Leonhardt, S., & Lundberg, K. B. (2019, May). *Further examining the relationship between social class and empathic accuracy* [Poster presentation]. Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.
- Wirtz, M. R.**, & Lundberg, K. B. (2019, April). *It’s written all over your face: Examining the relationship between socioeconomic status and empathic accuracy* [Poster presentation]. University of Richmond Student Symposium, Richmond, VA.
- Wirtz, M. R.**, Siddiqui, S., & Lundberg, K. B. (2018, March). *Who rides the emotional roller coaster?: Examining emotion variability as a link between socioeconomic status and well-being* [Poster presentation]. Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.
- Siddiqui, S., **Wirtz, M. R.**, & Lundberg, K. B. (2018, March). *Finding friends (and foes): Do lower-status individuals show greater sensitivity to social cues?* [Poster presentation]. Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.
- Levan, A. J., Newman, J., Hills, G., Schaberg, T., **Wirtz, M. R.**, & Gioia, G. A. (2018, February). *Working memory functioning following pediatric concussion* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Washington, DC.

Research Experience

Summer 2021- **Hunter College, New York, NY**

Present *Doctoral Student Researcher, Hunter Psycho-Oncology Lab, Department of Psychology*
Supervisor: Jennifer Ford, PhD

- Provide written support for NIH grant submissions (specifically U54 mechanisms), as well as internal CUNY applications

- Supervision of undergraduate honors theses (see “Mentorship”)

02/2022-Present: Fertility and Maternal Values After Cancer (FAM) Study

PIs: Zeba Ahmad, Ed.M., MA; Jennifer Ford, PhD

This study explores experiences with oncofertility survivorship care, focused on desire for family-building, culture and acculturation, stigma, and impact of cancer among Black and Latina female young adult cancer survivors.

- Developing a qualitative codebook for future analyses
- Independently applying both inductive and deductive codes for multiple transcripts

07/2021-12/2021: Forecasting Relationships, Thoughts, and Identity for Young Adults (FORTIFY) Study

PIs: Zeba Ahmad, Ed.M., MA; Jennifer Ford, PhD

This mixed-methods study seeks to investigate how young adult cancer survivors may shape their identity as a “cancer survivor” following cancer, and whether emotions such as shame, pride, embarrassment, or guilt about the aftereffects of cancer affect their functioning in social relationships. Further, it aims to investigate how thoughts and emotions about one’s future (future-oriented thought and emotion) may contribute to feelings of social isolation.

- Trained in developing a qualitative codebook for future analyses
- Independently applied both inductive and deductive codes for multiple transcripts

Summer 2019- **Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA**

Summer 2021 *Clinical Research Coordinator II, Behavioral Medicine Program, Department of Psychiatry*
Supervisors: Conall O’Cleirigh, PhD; Samantha Marquez McKetchnie, MSW

- Managed, conducted, and prepared study visits and research across multiple studies (detailed below)
- Coordinated and submitted multi-site grant proposals to agencies including the NIH (specifically R01, R21, and R34 mechanisms), Harvard University Center for AIDS Research, and American Lung Association
- Created, submitted, and maintained ethics applications, amendments, continuing reviews, and materials for a variety of domestic and international studies
- Conducted and analyzed research to prepare for publication and presentation (see above)
- Navigated all primary studies (see below) through the COVID-19 pandemic

11/2020-07/2021: Development of an Integrated mHealth App-Based Intervention to Support Smoking Cessation in People Living with HIV (NIH 1R21CA261458)

PIs: Bettina Hoepfner, PhD; Conall O’Cleirigh, PhD

The purpose of this study is to develop an integrated mHealth smartphone app-based intervention to support smoking cessation in people living with HIV engaged in HIV clinical care.

Assistant Clinical Research Coordinator

- Trained in conducting screening calls and onboarding procedures for participants engaged in Study 1, aiming to refine a previous version of an mHealth cessation-supportive app
- Trained in conducting semi-structured interview to assess participant engagement with the application
- Refined onboarding procedures and semi-structured interview to better engage with potential participants
- Acted as a consultant for various components of study, including REDCap fixes, payment plan suggestions, and recruitment strategies

5/2020-07/2021: Effectiveness of an Integrated Treatment to Address Smoking Cessation and Anxiety/Depression in People Living with HIV - Supplement (NIH 5R01DA047933-S1)

PIs: Conall O’Cleirigh, PhD; Jasper Smits, PhD; Michael Zvolensky, PhD

This administrative supplement looks to investigate the effects of COVID-19 among people living with HIV who smoke.

Lead Study Clinical Research Coordinator

- Conducted visits for all site participants (N at departure = 10) across up to 5 visits over 2 years
- Coordinated all study start-up, including dried blood spot analyses for COVID testing, across three implementation sites in Massachusetts and Texas
- Created and programmed REDCap databases

- Crafted manual of procedures for remote data collection
- Aided in drafting of grant submission

06/2019-07/2021: Effectiveness of an Integrated Treatment to Address Smoking Cessation and Anxiety/Depression in People Living with HIV (NIH 5R01DA047933)

PIs: Conall O’Cleirigh, PhD; Jasper Smits, PhD; Michael Zvolensky, PhD

Lead Study Clinical Research Coordinator

This study is a randomized controlled trial aiming to test the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of an intervention (QUIT) vs. a time-matched control and a standard (non-active) control, targeting people living with HIV who smoke in Boston, MA and Houston, TX.

- Conducted study visits for all site participants (*N* at departure = 22) across 14 visits and three different conditions, including assessment administration, medication instruction, and cessation encouragement
- Coordinated study start-up, including implementing the Single IRB process, programming all questionnaires into REDCap, and drafting recruitment materials
- Created and implemented a tool to assess therapist fidelity and competency
- Maintained documentation across three implementation sites, allowing for a streamlined process in a dynamic intervention
- Crafted manual of procedures for both in-person and remote data collection

06/2019-07/2021: The TENDAI Study: Task Shifting to Treat Depression and HIV Medication Nonadherence in Low Resource Settings (NIH 5R01MH114708)

PIs: Conall O’Cleirigh, PhD; Melanie Abas, MD

Site Clinical Research Coordinator

This study is a randomized controlled trial aiming to test the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of an intervention (TENDAI) vs. Enhanced Standard Care, targeting poor ART adherence and depression in participants attending ART clinics in rural Zimbabwe.

- Created systems for efficiently checking, managing, and cleaning data for 262 (and counting) participants across six intervention sessions and four major assessments
- Maintained documentation to provide supplementary ethics board approval
- Equipped team members with secure technology, to allow for transmission of data across sites

06/2019-07/2021: Pre-Award Grant Administration

Multiple PIs, including: Lara Traeger, PhD; Christina Psaros, PhD; Amelia Stanton, PhD

Co-Lead Pre-Award Grant Administrator, Behavioral Medicine Program

- Prepared administrative sections and submit grants, including prime applications, subawards, and supplements to funding agencies (National Institutes of Health, American Lung Association, and Harvard Center for AIDS Research)
- Educated all investigators in the Behavioral Medicine Program in grant application requirements and timelines, creating open communication between PIs and administrators
- Trained incoming Clinical Research Coordinators in grant administration to ensure a smooth transition

Fall 2016-
Spring 2019

University of Richmond Department of Psychology, Richmond, VA

Undergraduate Research Assistant/Honors Thesis Researcher, Lundberg Lab, Department of Psychology
Supervisor: Kristjen Lundberg, PhD

08/2018-05/2019: Senior Honors Thesis Researcher

- Crafted a two-part research study assessing the relationship between socioeconomic status, empathic accuracy, and well-being
- Managed a multi-thousand-dollar budget (awarded two internal grants, enumerated below)
- Analyzed all data, resulting in two poster presentations
- Assembled honors thesis, resulting in archival publication at the University of Richmond

08/2016-05/2018: Undergraduate Research Assistant

- Conducted a variety of statistical analyses in SPSS, resulting in several poster authorships

- Created MTurk and Qualtrics surveys for lab projects, allowing for a more streamlined data collection
- Provided data entry and coding in both Excel and SPSS to prepare for data analysis
- Assembled and revise IRB materials to expedite data collection
- Reviewed literature to supplement IRB submissions and poster presentations

Summer 2018 **Child Trends, Bethesda, MD**

Education Research Intern

Supervisor: Deborah Temkin, PhD

- Prepared qualitative research for website publication
- Coded CLASS observations on school climate into Excel to improve school climate in the DC area
- Reviewed public-facing legislation using the Whole Child, Whole Community, Whole School model
- Prepared graphical representations of quantitative data for dissemination to stakeholders

Summer 2017 **Children's National Health System, Washington, DC**

Safe Concussion Outcome and Recovery Education Clinic Intern, Center for Neuroscience and Behavioral Medicine

Supervisors: Gerard Gioia, PhD; Catherine McGill, PsyD; Ashley Levan, PhD

- Analyzed data on concussion symptomology, resulting in a poster authorship
- Coded neuropsychological case files into REDCap (English and Spanish) for future studies
- Observed neuropsychological evaluations and measures to contextualize research
- Participated in Grand Rounds to broaden knowledge of the entire medical field

Clinical Experience

Fall 2022- **Hunter College, New York, NY**

Spring 2023 *Clinical Extern, Counseling and Wellness Center*

Summer 2019- **Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA**

Summer 2021 *Clinical Research Coordinator II, Behavioral Medicine Program, Department of Psychiatry*

Supervisors: Conall O'Clearigh, PhD; Samantha Marquez McKetchnie, MSW; Allison Labbe, PhD

- Created handouts, homework, and flipbooks based on CBT principles to better engage participants in the therapeutic process
- Trained in basic principles of motivational interviewing and risk assessment to encourage therapeutic retention and crisis management
- Supervised in interactions with participants with complex trauma histories and emotional dysregulation
- Assisted in questionnaire administration for low-literacy participants

Summer 2019- **Camp Kesem Nationals, Boston, MA & New York, NY**

Summer 2021 *Camper Follow-Up Volunteer*

- Create and disseminate plans for campers who have experienced the trauma of a guardian's cancer and have mental and/or physical health concerns
- Craft plans for campers with physical and/or mental health concerns
- Coordinate implementation of plans between camper family and university

Summer 2019 **Camp Kesem University of Richmond, Richmond, VA**

Counselor, Teen Leadership Program

- Guided campers through the experience of overcoming the trauma of a guardian's cancer through engagement in many coping activities
- Mentored teenage campers (ages 15-18) to become mentors themselves through engagement in leadership forums and activities
- Encouraged participation of youth with intellectual disabilities (Down Syndrome) and adapted activities to suit the needs and abilities of all campers

Summer 2017 **Children's National Hospital, Washington, DC**

Safe Concussion Outcome and Recovery Education Clinic Intern, Center for Neuroscience and Behavioral Medicine

Supervisors: Gerard Gioia, PhD; Catherine McGill, PsyD; Ashley Levan, PhD

- Observed intake and follow-up sessions for children and adolescents experiencing a traumatic brain injury
- Shadowed clinical assessments for all patients
- Gained experience in understanding and interpreting various measures relating to traumatic brain injuries

2015-2019 **Best Buddies, Richmond, VA**

Peer Buddy

- Provided a support system for Richmond community members with intellectual disabilities
- Worked one-on-one with a young adult with autism to encourage healthy engagement in community activities

Service: Regional

Spring 2022- Member, Big Apple Health Psychology Colloquium Leadership Committee

Mentorship

Hunter Psycho-Oncology Lab Honors Students

Spring 2022 Tishmattie Gopal

Spring 2022 Zobaida Maria

Psychin' Out

Summer 2021- Morgan Daugherty
Spring 2022

Summer 2021- Allie Lin
Present

Invited and Volunteer Talks: Mentorship

- December 10, 2021: Hunter College Psi Chi – applying to Ph.D. programs in psychology
- November 14, 2021: Psychin' Out – statement of purpose live review session
- October 29, 2021: MGH Recovery Resource Institute (PI: Dr. Bettina Hoepfner) – applying to graduate school

Guest Lectures

- March 14, 2022: “The Future of Chronic Pelvic Pain Treatment” – Hunter College undergraduate Psychological Determinants of Health Disparities course (Prof. Tracey Revenson)

Awards

2022 Hunter Travel Award (Hunter College, City University of New York): \$1,000
2021-2026 Tuition Fellowship (The Graduate Center, City University of New York): \$28,950 (current; cumulative)
2021 Psychology Tithe Fellowship (The Graduate Center, City University of New York): \$1,527
2017-2019 Undergraduate Research Award (University of Richmond): \$1,500 (cumulative)
2015-2019 William H. Lockey Jr. Scholarship for Theatre (University of Richmond): \$61,000 (cumulative)
2015-2019 Tuition Exchange Scholarship (University of Richmond): \$136,000 (cumulative)
2018 John Neasmith Dickinson Memorial Research Award in Psychology (University of Richmond): \$1,500
2017, 2018 Undergraduate Research Travel Grant (University of Richmond): \$1,500 (cumulative)
2017 Spider Internship Fund Award (University of Richmond): \$2,400

Honors

2019	Westhampton College Distinguished Leadership Award (University of Richmond)
2018	Mortar Board Senior Honor Society (University of Richmond)
2018	Phi Sigma Iota (University of Richmond)
2017	Omicron Delta Kappa (University of Richmond)
2017	Sigma Delta Pi (University of Richmond)
2017	Psi Chi (University of Richmond)
2016	Alpha Psi Omega (University of Richmond)
2016	Golden Key International Honour Society (University of Richmond)
2016	Phi Eta Sigma (University of Richmond)
2015	Gold Medal in Flash Fiction (Alliance for Young Artists and Writers)

Editorial Experience

Ad hoc reviewer

Translational Issues in Psychological Science

Ad hoc reviewer (mentored)

Annals of Behavioral Medicine

BMC Cancer

JAMA Network Open

Journal of Clinical Oncology

Pediatric Blood & Cancer

Memberships

American Psychological Association

Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies

Association for Psychological Science

Society of Behavioral Medicine

Special Skills

Assessment: Structured Clinical Interview for the DSM-5 (trained to reliability)

Technical: SPSS, REDCap, Qualtrics, MTurk/TurkPrime, Excel, Insight 4.0, Zotero, Epic, ASSIST, Dedoose

Lab & Clinical: CoVita Smokerlyzer, NicAlert & NicConfirm cotinine tests, Dried blood spot COVID tests

Language: Spanish (limited working proficiency)

Relevant Trainings

2022 SCID-5 Training Workshop; *8-hour workshop, Evelyn Behar, PhD, & SCID Training Videos*

2021 Introduction to Python; *4-hour course series, Mass General Brigham*

2020 Conducting Virtual Clinical Research Visits; *4-hours, Mass General Brigham*

2020 Applied Biostatistics for Clinical Trials; *6-hour course series, MGH*

2020 Basic Biostatistics for Clinical Research; *8-hour course series, MGH*

2019 Qualitative Coding; *1-hour, MGH*

2019 Proposal Submissions in Insight 4.0 (internal grant submission system); *4-hour course, Partners HealthCare*

2019 ASSIST Proposal Submission System (NIH grant submission system); *4-hour course, Partners HealthCare*

2019 Introduction to Pre-award; *8-hour course, Partners HealthCare*