

Joshua Niznik, PharmD, PhD
University of North Carolina School of Medicine
Division of Geriatric Medicine
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EDUCATION:

Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy Research Track University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA	August 2019
Certificate in Clinical and Translational Science Institute for Clinical Research Education University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA	August 2019
Doctor of Pharmacy University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA	April 2015
Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA	April 2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES / EMPLOYMENT:

Assistant Director of Pharmaceutical Research Center for Aging and Health, UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine	August 2021-present
Assistant Professor University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine Eshelman School of Pharmacy, Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy	Dec 2019-present
Research Health Science Specialist VA Pittsburgh Health System – Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion	October 2016-present
Nominated Research Assistant Professor University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine	Aug 2019-Nov2019
Staff Pharmacist UPMC Magee-Women’s Hospital	July 2015-July 2019
T-32 Postdoctoral Scholar University of Pittsburgh, Dept. of Medicine, Geriatric Division	July 2017-June 2019
T-32 Summer Trainee University of Pittsburgh, Dept. of Medicine, Geriatric Division	July 2016-Sept 2016
Pharmacy Intern UPMC Magee-Women’s Hospital	May 2012-July 2015

HONORS:

Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCC) Aging Scholars Program
Advancing Geriatrics Infrastructure and Network Growth (AGING) Initiative

Junior Investigator Intensive Appointee
United States Deprescribing Research Network (USDeN)

Appointee
Journal of the American Geriatrics Society Junior Reviewer Program

Best Postdoctoral Clinical Research Award
UPMC Aging Institute

Randy and Renee Juhl Pharmacy Graduate Scholar Award
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

American Geriatrics Society Scientist-in Training Research Award
The American Geriatrics Society

American Geriatrics Society Best Paper Award, Health Services & Policy Research
The American Geriatrics Society

Health Services/Clinical Epidemiology Post-Doctoral Fellow Research Award
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Top Reviewer for Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy

AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting Student Poster Competition (Recognized as top 10 abstract)

Randy and Renee Juhl Pharmacy Graduate Scholar Award
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

American Pharmacists Association Senior Recognition Award

Carl and Virginia Stoehr Memorial Scholarship
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

Reuben and Ethel Helfant Scholarship
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PRODUCTS OF SCHOLARSHIP:

Refereed Papers/Articles:

1. Gromek KR*, Thorpe CT, Aspinall SL, Hanson LC, **Niznik JD**. Co-Prescribing of Anticholinergics and Cholinesterase Inhibitors in Nursing Home Residents: A Potential Deprescribing Cascade. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2023 Jan;71(1):77-88. PMC9870851.
2. Terman SW, **Niznik JD**, Slinger G, Otte WM, Braun KPJ, Aubert CE, Kerr WT, Boyd CM, Burke JF. Incidence and Predictors for Antiseizure Medication Gaps as a Proxy for Discontinuation Among US Medicare Beneficiaries with Treated Epilepsy. *BMC Neurol*. 2022;22(1):328. PMC9434838.
3. **Niznik JD**, Ferreri S, Armistead L, Kelley CJ, Schlusser C, Hughes T, Henage C, Busby-Whitehead J, Roberts E. Primary Care Providers' Perspectives on Deprescribing Opioids and Benzodiazepines in Older Adults. *Drugs Aging*. 2022 Sep;39(9):739-748. PMC9330848.

4. **Niznik JD**, Zhao X, Sileanu FE, Mor MK, Aspinall SL, Gellad WF, Ersek M, Hickson RP, Springer SP, Schleiden LJ, Hanlon JT, Thorpe JM, Thorpe CT. Effect of De-intensifying Diabetes Medications on Negative Events in Older Veteran Nursing Home Residents. *Diabetes Care*. 2022 Jul 7;45(7):1558-1567. PMC9274227.
5. **Niznik JD**, Berry SD, Syme M, Kelley CJ, Hanson LC, Harrison J. Addressing hesitancy to COVID-19 vaccines in healthcare assistants. *Geriatr Nurs*. May-Jun 2022;45:169-173. PMC9035372
6. **Niznik JD**, Gilliam MA, Li X, Aspinall SL, Hanson LC, Kelley CJ, Thorpe CT. Patterns of oral bisphosphonate deprescribing in older nursing home residents with dementia. *Osteoporosis Int*. 2022 Feb;33(2):379-390. PMC8813888
7. Schleiden LJ, Zickmund SL, Roman KL, Kennedy K, Thorpe JM, Rossi MI, **Niznik JD**, Springer SP, Thorpe CT. Caregiver and Provider Perspectives on Dual VA-Part D Medication Use in Veterans with Suspected Dementia or Cognitive Impairment. *Am J Health Syst Pharm*. 2022 Jan 5;79(2):94-101. PMID: 34453437
8. **Niznik JD**, Harrison J, White E, Syme M, Hanson LC, Kelley CJ, Porter L, Berry SD. Perceptions of COVID-19 Vaccines Among Healthcare Assistants: A National Survey. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2022 Jan;70(1):8-18. PMC8657352.
9. Alexopoulos AS, Kahkoska AR, Pate V, Bradley MC, **Niznik J**, Thorpe C, Stürmer T, Buse J. Deintensification of Treatment With Sulfonylurea and Insulin After Severe Hypoglycemia Among Older Adults With Diabetes. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021 Nov 1;4(11):e2132215. PMC8564578.
10. Vu M, Sileanu FE, Aspinall SL, **Niznik JD**, Springer SP, Mor MK, Zhao X, Ersek M, Hanlon JT, Gellad WF, Schleiden LJ, Thorpe JM, Thorpe CT. Antihypertensive Deprescribing in Older Adult Veterans at End-of-Life Admitted to Veteran Affairs Nursing Homes. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2021 Jan;22(1):132-140.e5. PMC7769911
11. **Niznik JD**, Li X, Gilliam MA, Hanson LC, Aspinall SL, Colon-Emeric C, Thorpe CT. Are Nursing Home Residents With Dementia Appropriately Treated for Fracture Prevention? *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2021 Jan;22(1):28-35.e3. PMC8358966
12. Thorpe CT, Sileanu FE, Mor MK, Zhao X, Aspinall SL, Ersek M, Springer S, **Niznik JD**, Vu M, Schleiden LJ, Gellad WF, Hunnicutt J, Thorpe JM, Hanlon JT. Discontinuation of Statins in Veterans Admitted to Nursing Homes Near the End of Life. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2020 Nov;68(11):2609-2619. PMC8008499
13. **Niznik JD**, Hunnicutt J, Zhao X, Mor MK, Sileanu F, Aspinall SL, Springer SP, Ersek MJ, Gellad WF, Schleiden LJ, Hanlon JT, Thorpe JM, Thorpe CT. Deintensification of Diabetes Medications among Veterans at the End-of-Life in VA Nursing Homes. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2020 Apr;68(4):736-745. PMC7456123
14. **Niznik JD**, Zhao XZ, He W, Aspinall SL, Hanlon JT, Nace DA, Thorpe JT, Thorpe, CT. Impact of Deprescribing AChEIs on Aggressive Behaviors and Antipsychotic Prescribing. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2020 Apr;16(4):630-640. PMC7138718
15. Springer SP, Mor MK, Sileanu F, Zhao X, Aspinall SL, Ersek M, **Niznik JD**, Hanlon JT, Hunnicutt J, Gellad WF, Thorpe JM, Thorpe CT. Incidence and Predictors of Aspirin Discontinuation in Older Veteran Nursing Home Residents at End-of-Life. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2020 Apr;68(4):725-735. PMC7837284
16. **Niznik JD**, Zhao XZ, He W, Aspinall SL, Hanlon JT, Hanson LC, Nace DA, Thorpe JT, Thorpe, CT. Risk for Health Events After Deprescribing AChEIs in Nursing Home Residents with Severe Dementia. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2020 Apr;68(4):699-707. PMC7477721
17. **Niznik JD**, Zhao XZ, He W, Aspinall SL, Hanlon JT, Nace DA, Thorpe JT, Thorpe, CT. Factors associated with de-prescribing AChEIs in older nursing home residents with severe dementia. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2019 Sep;67(9):1871-1879. PMC7456032
18. Schleiden LJ, Thorpe CT, Cashy JP, Gellad WF, Good CB, Hanlon JT, Mor MK, **Niznik JD**, Pleis JR, Van Houtven

CH, Thorpe JM. Characteristics of dual drug benefit use among veterans with dementia enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration and Medicare Part D. *Res Social Adm Pharm*. 2019 Jun;15(6):701-709.

19. **Niznik JD**, Zhang S, Mor M, Zhao X, Ersek M, Aspinall S, Thorpe J, Gellad W, Hanlon J, Schleiden L, Springer S, Thorpe C. Adaptation and Initial Validation of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) Mortality Risk Index to MDS version 3.0. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2018 Dec;66(12):2353-2359. PMC7477706
20. Thorpe CT, Gellad WF, Mor MK, Cashy JP, Pleis JR, Van Houtven CH, Schleiden LJ, Hanlon JT, **Niznik JD**, Carico RL, Good CB, Thorpe JM. Effect of dual use of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Medicare Part D drug benefits on antihypertensive refill adherence in a national cohort of Veterans with dementia. *Health Services Research*. 2018 Dec;53 Suppl 3:5375-5401. PMC6235809
21. **Niznik J**, Zhao X, Jiang T, Hanlon J, Aspinall S, Thorpe J, Thorpe C. Anticholinergic Prescribing in Medicare Part D Beneficiaries Residing in Nursing Homes: Results from a retrospective cross-sectional analysis of Medicare data. *Drugs & Aging* 2017 Dec;34(12):925-939. PMC5734663

Other Peer-reviewed Articles:

1. **Niznik JD**, Ernecoff NC, Thorpe CT, Mitchell SL, Hanson LC. Operationalizing deprescribing as a component of goal-concordant dementia care. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. [published online ahead of print, 2022 Dec 22.]
2. **Niznik JD**, Gilliam MA, Colón-Emeric C, Thorpe CT, Lund JL, Berry SD, Hanson LC. Controversies in Osteoporosis Treatment of Nursing Home Residents. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2022 Dec;23(12):1928-1934. PMC9885478.
3. Sloane PD, **Niznik JD**. The Ambiguous Reality of Prescribing in Geriatric Practice. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2022 Jun;23(6):976-979.
4. **Niznik J**, Ferreri SP, Armistead L, Urick B, Vest MH, Zhao L, Hughes T, McBride JM, Busby-Whitehead J. A deprescribing medication program to evaluate falls in older adults: methods for a randomized pragmatic clinical trial. *Trials*. 2022 Apr 4;23(1):256. PMC8981935.
5. **Niznik JD**, Collins BC, Armistead LT, Larson CK, Kelley CJ, Hughes TD, Sanders KA, Carlson R, Ferreri SP. Pharmacist Interventions to Deprescribe Opioids and Benzodiazepines in Older Adults: A Rapid Review. *Res SocialAdm Pharm*. 2021 Jul 16:S1551-7411(21)00270-9. PMC8836277
6. Henage CB, Ferreri SP, Schlusser C, Hughes TD, Armistead LT, Kelley CJ, **Niznik JD**, Busby-Whitehead J, Roberts R. Transitioning Focus Group Research to a Videoconferencing Environment: A Descriptive Analysis of Interactivity. *Pharmacy (Basel)*. 2021 Jun 24;9(3):117. PMC8293315
7. **Niznik JD**, He H, Kane-Gill SL. Impact of clinical pharmacist services delivered via telemedicine in the outpatient or ambulatory care setting: A systematic review. *Res Social Adm Pharm*. 2018 Aug;14(8):707-717.
8. Aspinall S, Hanlon JT, **Niznik JD**, Springer S, Thorpe CT. Deprescribing in Older Nursing Home Patients: Focus on Innovative Composite Measures for Dosage Deintensification. *Innov Aging*. 2017 Dec 20;1(2):igx031. PMC6176971
9. Kane-Gill SL, **Niznik JD**, Kellum JA, Culley CM, Boyce RD, Marcum Z, He H, Perera S, Handler SM. Use of telemedicine to enhance pharmacist services in the nursing home. *Consult Pharm* 2017 Feb 1;32(2):93-98.

In Press/Submitted:

1. **Niznik JD**, Hughes TD, Armistead LA, Kashyap J, Roller J, Busby-Whitehead J, Ferreri S. Patterns and Disparities in Prescribing of Opioids and Benzodiazepines in Older Adults. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. In Press. Pages: 16.
2. **Niznik JD**, Colón-Emeric C, Kelley CJ, Thorpe CT, Gilliam MA, Lund JL, Hanson LC. Prescriber Perspectives

and Experiences with Deprescribing versus Continuing Bisphosphonates in Older Nursing Home Residents with Dementia. Submitted February 2023. Pages: 23.

3. Thorpe CT, **Niznik JD**, Li A. Deprescribing Research in Nursing Home Residents Using Real-World Data: A conceptual framework and practical considerations. Submitted June 2022. Pages: 22.
4. Kelley CJ, **Niznik JD**, Ferreri SP, Schlusser C, Armistead LT, Hughes TD, Henage CB, Busby-Whitehead J, Roberts E. Patient perceptions of opioids and benzodiazepines and attitudes toward deprescribing. Submitted May 2022. Pages: 23.
5. Sanders KA, Wolverton D, Stamopoulos M, Zunich R, **Niznik JD**, Ferreri S. Utility of Smart Data Elements as Extractable Outcomes Measures for a Pragmatic Clinical Pharmacist Intervention. Submitted October 2022. Pages: 13.
6. Hickson RP, Sileanu FE, Zhao X, Mor MK, **Niznik JD**, Aspinall SL, Gellad WF, Ersek M, Schleiden LJ, Springer SP, Thorpe JT, Hanlon JT, Thorpe CT. Outcomes of Antihypertensive Deintensification in Nursing Home Residents near the End of Life. Submitted September 2022. Pages: 50.

Refereed oral presentations and/or abstracts:

1. **Niznik JD**, Gilliam MA, Kelley CJ, Colón-Emeric C, Hanson LC, Lund JL, Thorpe CT. Provider Experiences with Deprescribing Versus Continuing Bisphosphonates in Older Nursing Home Residents with Dementia. Poster Presentation. American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting. Long Beach, CA, May 2023.
2. Colon-Emeric C, Rosen S, **Niznik JD**, Berry S. Addressing the 5Ms of Osteoporosis Management. Symposium Presentation. American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, May 2023.
3. Zhong Z*, Armistead L, Ferreri S, Busby-Whitehead J, **Niznik JD**. Benzodiazepines and Fall Injuries: Indications, Duration, and Complications. Poster Presentation. American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting. Long Beach, CA, May 2023.
4. Klickstein LC, Fenton V, **Niznik JD**, Meyer ML, Busby-Whitehead J, Davenport K, Roberts E, Goyal P, Goldberg E, Casey MF. Prevalence of Drug-Drug Interactions That Elevate Bleeding Risk in Older Adults Presenting with Falls. Presentation. Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting. Austin, TX, May 2023.
5. Zhong Z*, Armistead L, Ferreri S, Busby-Whitehead J, **Niznik JD**. Benzodiazepines and Fall Injuries: Indications, Duration, and Complications. Poster Presentation. John B. Graham Medical Student Research Society Student Research Day. UNC School of Medicine. November 2022.
6. **Niznik JD**. Using Medicare and VA Data to Study Deprescribing in Older Adults: Opportunities and Challenges. Symposium Presentation. International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology Annual Meeting. Copenhagen, Denmark. August 2022.
7. Marcum, ZA, **Niznik JD**, Growdon M, Green A. Getting Rid Of Fall Risk-Increasing Drugs (FRIDS): A Deprescribing Balancing Act. Symposium Presentation. American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, May 2022.
8. Batsis JA, Dewar S, **Niznik JD**, Vouri SM. Beyond Behavioral Weight Loss Interventions. Symposium Presentation. American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, May 2022.
9. **Niznik JD**, Armistead L, Hughes T, Kashyap J, Roller J, Ferreri S, Busby-Whitehead J. Patterns of chronic opioid and benzodiazepine use in older primary care patients. Poster Presentation. American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, May 2022.
10. **Niznik JD**, Kelley CJ, Ferreri SP, Armistead LT, Schlusser C, Hughes TD, Henage C, Busby-Whitehead, Roberts

ER. Deprescribing opioids and benzodiazepines: perspectives of older adults. Poster Presentation. American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, May 2022.

11. **Niznik JD**, Zhao X, Sileanu FE, Mor MK, Aspinall SL, Gellad WF, Ersek M, Springer SP, Schleiden LJ, Hanlon JT, Thorpe JM, Thorpe CT. Impact of Deintensifying Diabetes Regimens on All-Cause Negative Events in Older Veteran Nursing Home Residents. Poster presentation at the 2021 American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting. May 2021.
12. **Niznik JD**, Gilliam MA, Li X, Aspinall SL, Hanson, LC, Kelley CJ, Thorpe, CT. Factors Associated with Deprescribing Bisphosphonates in Nursing Home Residents with Dementia. Podium presentation at the 2021 US Deprescribing Research Network Annual Meeting. May 2021.
13. **Niznik JD**, Gilliam MA, Li X, Aspinall SL, Hanson, LC, Kelley CJ, Thorpe, CT. Factors Associated with Deprescribing Bisphosphonates in Nursing Home Residents with Dementia. Poster presentation at the 2021 American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting. May 2021.
14. Gromek KR, Thorpe CT, Aspinall SL, Hanson LC, **Niznik JD**. Co-Prescribing of Anticholinergics and Cholinesterase Inhibitors: A Potential Deprescribing Cascade. Poster presentation at the 2021 American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting. May 2021.
15. Hughes TD, Henage CB, Armistead L, Niznik JD, Kelley CJ, Schlusser C, Busby-Whitehead J, Ferreri S, Roberts E. Insights Gained on Deprescribing Opioids and Benzodiazepines to Reduce Older Adult Falls. Poster presentation at the 2021 American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting. May 2021.
16. Selman K, Teresi B, Northam K, Davis SE, Roberts E, Niznik J, Henage C, Kelley C, Busby-Whitehead J, Davenport K. Initiative to deprescribe inappropriate medications from the emergency department for older adults after fall. Academic Emergency Medicine. 2021May;28(S1):S234. Presented at SAEM Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. May 2021.
17. Roberts E, Henage CB, Armistead LT, Hughes TD, **Niznik JD**, Schlusser C, Busby-Whitehead J, Ferreri S. Qualitative Exploration of Barriers and Facilitators for Deprescribing Opioids and Benzodiazepines in Older Adults to Reduce Falls. Poster presentation at the 2020 Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting. Virtual meeting. November 2020.
18. **Niznik JD**. Deprescribing in older adults: Is evidence for continued medication use generalizable beyond age 75? Invited presentation for the Health Sciences Presidential Symposium at the 2020 Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting. Virtual meeting. November 2020.
19. **Niznik JD**, Zhao X, He M, Aspinall SL, Hanlon JT, Nace D, Thorpe JT, Thorpe CT. Impact Of Deprescribing Cholinesterase Inhibitors On Medication Use In Nursing Home Residents With Severe Dementia. Accepted for oral presentation at the 2020 American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting. [meeting cancelled due to COVID-19].
20. **Niznik JD**, Li X, Gilliam MA, Hanson LC, Thorpe CT. Osteoporosis Treatment Patterns for Nursing Home Residents with Dementia. Accepted for poster presentation at the 2020 American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting. [meeting cancelled due to COVID-19].
21. **Niznik JD**, Zhao X, He M, Aspinall SL, Hanlon JT, Nace D, Thorpe JT, Thorpe CT. Outcomes of Discontinuing Cholinesterase Inhibitors in Nursing Home Residents with Severe Dementia. Oral presentation at the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting – The Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX, November 2019.
22. **Niznik JD**, Mor MK, Zhang S, Sileanu F, Zhao X, Aspinall SL, Hanlon JT, Hunnicutt J, Springer SP, Gellad WF, Schleiden LJ, Thorpe JM, Thorpe CT. Statin Discontinuation in VA Community Living Center Residents with Limited Life Expectancy. Oral presentation at the 2017 Department of Veterans Affairs HSR&D/QUERI National Conference, Washington, D.C., October 2019.
23. **Niznik JD**, Zhao X, He M, Aspinall SL, Hanlon JT, Nace D, Thorpe JT, Thorpe CT. Factors Associated with De-

prescribing AChEIs in Older Nursing Home residents with Severe Dementia. Poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society, Portland OR, May 2019.

24. Springer SP, Mor MK, Zhang S, Sileanu FE, Zhao X, Aspinall SL, Ersek MJ, Hanlon JT, Hunnicutt J, **Niznik JD**, Gellad WF, Schleiden LJ, Thorpe JM, Thorpe CT. Prevalence and Factors Predicting Aspirin Use for Secondary Prevention in Veteran Affairs (VA) Nursing Home Residents with Limited Life Expectancy on Admission. Poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society, Portland OR, May 2019.
25. Thorpe CT, Mor MK, Zhang S, Sileanu FE, Zhao X, Aspinall SL, Ersek MJ, Hanlon JT, Hunnicutt J, **Niznik JD**, Springer S, Gellad WF, Schleiden LJ, Thorpe JM. Statin discontinuation in Veterans Affairs (VA) nursing home residents with limited life expectancy. Poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society, Portland OR, May 2-4, 2019.
26. **Niznik JD**, Zhao XZ, He W, Aspinall SL, Hanlon JT, Nace DA, Thorpe JT, Thorpe, CT. Factors associated with de-prescribing AChEIs in older nursing home residents with severe dementia. Poster presentation at the UPMC/Pitt Aging Research Day, Pittsburgh, PA, December 2018. Award: Post-doctoral Clinical Research Award.
27. **Niznik J**, Zhang S, Mor M, Zhao X, Ersek M, Aspinall S, Thorpe J, Gellad W, Hanlon J, Schleiden L, Springer S, Thorpe C. Validating the MDS Mortality Risk Index in Older Adult Veterans using MDS v3.0. Poster presentation at the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA, June 2018.
28. **Niznik J**, Zhang S, Mor M, Zhao X, Ersek M, Aspinall S, Thorpe J, Gellad W, Hanlon J, Schleiden L, Springer S, Thorpe C. Validating the MDS Mortality Risk Index in Older Adult Veterans using MDS v3.0. Podium presentation at the American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, May 2018. Award: American Geriatrics Society Best Paper Award, Health Services & Policy Research.
29. Thorpe CT, Gellad WF, Mor MK, Cashy JP, Pleis JR, Van Houtven CH, Schleiden LJ, Hanlon JT, **Niznik JD**, Carico Jr. RL, Good CB, Thorpe JM. Effect of dual use of Veterans Affairs and Medicare Part D drug benefits on chronic disease refill adherence in Veterans with dementia. Oral presentation at the 2017 Department of Veterans Affairs HSR&D/QUERI National Conference, Crystal City, VA, July 2017.
30. **Niznik J**, Zhao X, Jiang T, Hanlon J, Aspinall S, Thorpe J, Thorpe CT. Factors Predicting the Use of Anticholinergic Medications in Nursing Home Patients. Poster presentation at University of Pittsburgh Annual Aging Institute Research Day, Pittsburgh, PA, May 2017 and AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 2017. Honoree: Top 10 Abstract in AcademyHealth Student Poster Competition.
31. Squires PJ, Thorpe J, Gellad W, Hanlon J, **Niznik J**, Pleis J, Mor MK, Van Houtven C, Schleiden L, Thorpe C. Cholinesterase inhibitors and antimuscarinic anticholinergics: A prescribing cascade in older Veterans with dementia. Poster presentation at the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 2017.
32. **Niznik J**, Thorpe CT, Meyer S. Health Policy and its Role in Pharmacy Education and Practice: A Review. Poster Presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Denver CO, October 2016.
33. **Niznik J**, Thorpe CT. Using Medicare Administrative Data to Study Medication-Related Geriatric Syndromes in Nursing Home Patients. Poster Presentation at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Research Retreat, Pittsburgh, PA, July 2016.
34. Nowak J, Cheung E, Robb K, Schmidt M, Mitterer L, O'Neill C, Hoffman R, Grant K, **Niznik J**, Skezas N, Tokarski R. Implementation of a Pharmacy Discharge Medication Education Program. Poster Presentation at the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists Midyear Meeting, Anaheim, CA, December 2014.

Digital and Other Media:

1. Drug Prescribing Dilemmas in Geriatric Medicine. American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) On-the-Go Podcast. Guest Commentator. July 8, 2022. <https://paltc.podbean.com/e/jamda-on-the-go-june-2022/>

2. Controversies in Medication Management in Long Term Care. American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) On-the-Go Podcast. Guest Commentator. January 13, 2021. <https://paltc.podbean.com/e/jamda-on-the-go-12132021/>
3. Nursing Home Residents as a Priority for Deprescribing. Blog Post - Canadian Deprescribing Research Network and the Bruyère Research Institute. August 10, 2020. <https://deprescribing.org/news/nursing-home-residents-as-a-priority-population-for-deprescribing/>

TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

Small Group Teaching:

UNC Chapel Hill:

PHCY 718 – The Patient Care Experience II Spring 2020-2022

Professional Course – Eshleman School of Pharmacy

Facilitator of small group of 10-12 pharmacy students to discuss perspectives and interfaces with patients and health care providers.

PHCY 504 – Evidence-based Practice Fall 2020

Professional Course – Eshleman School of Pharmacy

Facilitator of journal club discussion with two small groups of 10-12 pharmacy students.

Lectures:

UNC Chapel Hill:

PHCY 504 – Evidence-based Practice Fall 2022

Professional Course – Eshleman School of Pharmacy

Lecture and Graded Activity: Developing an Evidence-Based Drug Therapy Recommendation and Rationale: EBP Case

Approximately 130 professional students

ANTH 318 - Human Growth and Development Summer 2022

Lecture: Suboptimal Prescription Patterns in Older Adults

Approximately 20 undergraduate students.

MSTAR Training Program Summer 2020-2022

Lecture(s): Suboptimal Prescription Patterns in Older Adults

Medication Use in Aging Populations: Data Sources and Methods for Analysis

Approximately 10-15 medical students.

University of Pittsburgh:

EPIDEM 2981 - Epidemiology of Aging – Methods Fall 2020, Fall 2022

Graduate Course - Department of Epidemiology

Lecture(s): Medication Use in Aging Populations: Data Sources and Methods for Analysis

Approximately 15 graduate students per section.

PHARM 3071 - Foundations of Pharmaceutical Sciences Spring 2019

Graduate Course - Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Lecture(s): Medication Data Sources and Methods for Analysis; Causal Inference and Bias in Outcomes Research

Approximately 25 graduate students per section.

EPIDEM 2900 - Advanced Epidemiology of Aging Spring 2019

Graduate Course - Department of Epidemiology

Lecture(s): Suboptimal Prescription Patterns in Older Adults

Approximately 15 graduate students per section.

<i>EPIDEM 2981 - Epidemiology of Aging – Methods</i>	Fall 2018
Graduate Course - Department of Epidemiology	
Lecture(s): Medication Use in Aging Populations: Data Sources and Methods for Analysis	
Approximately 15 graduate students per section.	
<i>PHARM 2003 – Pharmacoepidemiology</i>	Spring 2018
Graduate Course - Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences	
Lecture(s): Special Considerations for Analyses in Pharmacoepidemiology	
Approximately 25 graduate students per section.	
<i>PHARM 5211 - Drug Literature Analysis and Evaluation</i>	Spring 2016-2018
Professional Course - Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics	
Lecture(s): Communicating Evidence-based Recommendations; Evidence-Based Medicine Anticoagulation Case	
Approximately 110 pharmacy students per section	

Grand Rounds/Seminars:

UNC Chapel Hill:

<i>UNC Center for Aging and Health – UNC Geriatrics for Primary Care Providers ECHO Program</i>	Fall 2022
Presentation: Deprescribing and Medication Safety: An Evidence-Based Approach	
<i>Southern Kentucky Area Health Education Center Flourish Connect ECHO Program</i>	Fall 2022
Presentation: Deprescribing and Medication Safety: An Evidence-Based Approach	
<i>Department of Medicine – Geriatric Division Weekly Conference</i>	Fall 2022
Presentation: Fracture Prevention in Nursing Home Residents with Dementia	
<i>Asheville Summit</i>	Spring 2022
Presentation: Deprescribing and Medication Safety: An evidence-based approach	
<i>Department of Medicine - Geriatric Division Weekly Conference</i>	Spring 2021
Presentation: Potential Overtreatment of Diabetes in Nursing Home Residents	
<i>Department of Medicine - Geriatric Division Weekly Conference & Fellows Lecture</i>	2020-2021
Presentation: Polypharmacy and Frailty: A Discussion of Implications for Practice and Research	
<i>Department of Medicine - Geriatric Division Fellows Lecture</i>	2019-2021
Presentation: Utility and Appropriateness of Antidementia Medications	
<i>Department of Medicine - Geriatric Division Weekly Conference & Fellows Lecture</i>	Fall 2019, 2020
Presentation: Anticholinergic Use in Elderly Populations: Current Research and Clinical Implications	
<i>Department of Epidemiology – Pharmacoepidemiology Seminar</i>	Fall 2019
Observational Data Sources and Study Designs to Evaluate Deprescribing in Older Adults	
<u>Moses Cone Hospital:</u>	
<i>Internal Medicine Grand Rounds</i>	Fall 2019
Presentation: Anticholinergic Use in Elderly Populations: Current Research and Clinical Implications	
<u>University of Pittsburgh:</u>	
<i>Center for Research on Health Care – Health Services Research Seminar Series</i>	Fall 2020
Presentation: Opportunities and Challenges of Studying Deprescribing in Older Adults	
Using Administrative Healthcare Data	

Department of Medicine - Geriatric Division Weekly Conference Fall 2018
Presentation: Anticholinergic Use in Elderly Populations: Current Research and Clinical Implications

Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center Research Seminar Fall 2017
Presentation: Anticholinergic Use in Elderly Populations: Methods and Implications for Research

Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center Research Seminar Spring 2019
Presentation: Quality and Safety of Prescribing in Older Nursing Home Residents

International:

Diabetes Canada Professional Conference Fall 2021
Presentation: Potential Overtreatment of Diabetes in Nursing Homes

Australian Deprescribing Research Network – Guest Seminar Series Spring 2021
Presentation: Opportunities and Challenges of Studying Deprescribing in Older Adults Using Administrative Healthcare Data

Graduate Supervision or Committees:

University of North Carolina:

Research and Scholarship in Pharmacy, Eshelman School of Pharmacy (Primary Mentor)

- Lauren Fasth, PharmDc, 2021-present
 - Project Title: Perceptions of Deprescribing Bisphosphonates in the Nursing Home Setting
- Kimberly Gromek, PharmDc, 2019-present
 - Project Title: Patterns of Co-prescribing Potentially Unnecessary Medications in Nursing Home Residents with Severe Dementia

UNC-CH Summer Research Training in Aging for Medical Students (Advisor)

- Leah Adams, 2022-2023
 - Project Title: Patient and caregiver perspectives on the impact of multiple myeloma and its treatments on function and quality of life
- Imani Bazemore, 2022-2023
 - Project Title: Association of SSRI's with Postoperative Delirium A Retrospective Study
- Gabriell Erisnor, 2022-2023
 - Project Title: Influence of individual sociodemographic and community social vulnerability on the illness experiences of older adults with multiple myeloma and their informal caregivers
- Janet Guo, 2022-2023
 - Project Title: Palliative Care for Persons with Late-stage Alzheimer's and Related Dementias and their Caregivers
- Skylar Harmon, 2022-2023
 - Project Title: Associations between foot and ankle symptoms and excess mortality in the Johnston County Osteoarthritis Project
- Raveena Mata, 2022-2023
 - Project Title: Delivering Virtual Integrative Medical Group Visits for Older Adults
- Julius Reynolds, 2022-2023
 - Project Title: The effects of vibration on indicators of post-traumatic knee osteoarthritis risk following anterior cruciate ligament injury
- Rahi Shah, 2022-2023
 - Project Title: TBD
- Zada Zhong, 2022-2023
 - Project Title: Opioids and Benzodiazepine prescriptions and their relationship to falls in older adults

- Shannon Cahalan, 2021-2022
 - Project Title: TDP-43 aggregate generation to investigate neuroinflammatory mechanisms in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis pathogenesis
 - Awards: American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting Presidential Poster Awardee
- Kevin Cao, 2021-2022
 - Project Title: Important Components of Medical and Mental Health Care in Assisted Living
- Joshua Dejoya, 2021-2022
 - Project Title: Older Age is Associated with less Psychological Distress in ICU Family Caregivers
- Jennifer Ling, 2021-2022
 - Project Title: Frequency of Hospital and Care Facility Transitions in Advanced Dementia Patients
- Meghan Pavelka, 2021-2022
 - Project Title: Assessment of Vasospasm Risk Following Subarachnoid Hemorrhage in Older Adults
- Daniela Shirazi, 2021-2022
 - Project Title: Obesity, Multimorbidity And The Relationship With Physical Function: Data From The National Health And Aging Trends Survey
- Albert Hong, 2020-2021
 - Project Title: Investigating the Therapeutic Role of Retinoic Acid-Related Orphan Receptor Alpha (ROR α) in Heart Failure
 - Awards: American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting Presidential Poster Awardee
- Lorena Millo, 2020-2021
 - Project Title: Novel Risk Score Predicts In-Hospital Mortality in Older Patients with STEMI
- Laiken Price, 2020-2021
 - Project Title: An Educational Intervention to Increase Advance Care Planning Activities among Emergency Medicine Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Awards: American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting Presidential Poster Awardee
- Ami Shiddapur, 2020-2021
 - Project Title: Association of H2 blockers or PPIs with Delirium Development in Critically Ill Adults
 - Awards: American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting Presidential Poster Awardee
- Brian Wood, 2020-2021
 - Project Title: Effects of Aging on Clinical Outcomes in Patients Receiving Genotype-Guided P2Y12 Inhibitor Selection after Percutaneous Coronary Intervention
 - Awards: UNC School of Medicine Harold C. Pillsbury, MD Student Research Award for Excellent Oral Presentations

GRANTS AND OTHER SUPPORT:

Current:

Deprescribing Bisphosphonates in Older Nursing Home Residents with Dementia 04/01/2021-03/31/2026
National Institutes on Aging 1K08AG071794-01

(PI: Joshua Niznik)

Role: Principal Investigator (75% effort)

This study seeks to evaluate the risks and benefits of deprescribing versus continuing bisphosphonates in older nursing home residents with Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and AD-Related Dementias (AD/ADRD). This study will evaluate the qualitative perceptions of providers and caregivers, clinical outcomes, and healthcare-related costs to determine whether deprescribing bisphosphonates is a safe and reasonable strategy to reduce the medication burden for certain individuals in this population.

Total Direct Costs: \$702,865

NIA AD/ADRD Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory
U54AG063546

07/01/2021-06/30/2024

(PIs: Mor V, Mitchell S)

Role: Executive committee member, Patient/Caregiver Relevant Outcomes Core (5% effort)

The NIA AD/ADRD Collaboratory will provide the national infrastructure necessary to catalyze and support embedded pragmatic clinical trials of non-pharmacological interventions for persons with dementia. By convening national experts

to provide consultation and guidance to Collaboratory-funded pilot projects and NIA-funded trials, the Collaboratory has the potential to transform care delivery, quality, and outcomes for millions of Americans living with AD/ADRD.

Total Direct Costs: \$468,508

Carolina Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program 08/01/2019-06/30/2024
HRSA-Bureau of Health Workforce 2-U1QHP28734

(PI: Busby-Whitehead, J)

Role: Co-investigator (in kind effort)

The CGWEP will improve health outcomes for older adults by: (1) establishing partnerships among academia, primary care sites, and community-based organizations, (2) training all healthcare professions to address older adults' primary care needs, (3) transforming clinical training environments into integrated age-friendly health systems, (4) disseminating community-based programs that provide patients, families, caregivers, and direct care workers geriatrics knowledge and skills, and (5) educating families, caregivers, and direct care workers on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD).

Total Direct Costs: \$3,750,000

UNC-CH Summer Research Training in Aging for Medical Students 08/01/2020-05/30/2024
NIA 2-T35-AG038047-11

(PI: Busby-Whitehead)

Role: Co-Associate Director and Program Advisor (in kind effort)

The short-term goal of the program is to provide medical students with a meaningful aging research experience early in their medical school career. The long-term goal of the UNC START Program will be to increase the number of physician-scientists engaged in biomedical, clinical, or health services research in those areas necessary to continue the mission of the NIA.

Total Direct Costs:\$525,825

Validating Claims-based Definitions for Deprescribing Using Electronic Health Records: 12/01/2021-5/31/2023
Bridging the Gap Between Clinical and Administrative Data Sources

North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute (NCTraCS)

(PI: Joshua Niznik & Jennifer Lund)

Role: Co-PI and Mentor (in kind effort)

This pilot study will use a novel linkage between Medicare claims and the University of North Carolina's electronic health record (EHR) data, we propose to evaluate the performance of Medicare-claims based algorithms for identifying deprescribing against EHR data.

Total Direct Costs: \$24,000

Implementation of a De-prescribing Medication Program to Evaluate Falls in Older Adults 09/30/2018-09/29/2023
CDC U01CE002955

(PI: Ferreri, S; Busby-Whitehead J)

Role: Co-Investigator (10% effort)

This study will engage patients within the UNC Health Care System who are 65 years of age or older and taking either an opioid or benzodiazepine, with the objective of implementing a pharmacist-initiated de-prescribing medication protocol to protect older adults at risk of falls.

Total Direct Costs: \$3,000,000

Completed:

Deprescribing Bisphosphonates in Older Nursing Home Residents with Dementia 08/01/2020-07/31/2022
U.S. Deprescribing Network Pilot (NIA 1R24AG064025)

(PI: Niznik, JD)

Role: Principal Investigator (7.5% effort)

This study will develop operational definitions for examining deprescribing of bisphosphonates using Medicare Part D prescription drug event data. In subsequent analyses, the study will examine the incidence and predictors of deprescribing bisphosphonates in a sample of Medicare nursing home residents with dementia.

Total Direct Costs: \$37,691

Improved Testing for COVID-19 in Skilled Nursing Facilities: IMPACT-C NIA
U54AG063546

09/30/2020-06/30/2022

(PIs: Mor V, Berry S)

Role: Co-Investigator / UNC-CH Site PI (5% effort)

IMPACT-C is a supplement to the NIA IMPACT Collaboratory and will establish the infrastructure and expertise to develop and evaluate SARS-CoV-2 testing strategies for skilled nursing facilities that are compassionate and culturally sensitive, but nimble enough to respond to advances in testing and vaccine development.

Total Direct Costs: \$3,073,069

De-intensifying Unnecessary Medications in VA CLC Residents Nearing End of Life
VA HSR&D IIR 14-306

05/01/2016-06/30/2021

(PI: Thorpe, CT)

Role: Co-Investigator (in kind effort)

This study will advance understanding of current variation across VA nursing homes in implementation of recommendations issued by geriatric groups to avoid intense treatment for lipid, blood pressure, and glycemic control in residents with limited life expectancy and/or advanced dementia, and effects on Veteran outcomes.

Total Direct Costs: \$ \$1,024,629

De-prescribing of Anti-dementia Medications

11/1/2017-10/31/2019

The Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation

(Co-PIs: Carolyn Thorpe & Sherrie Aspinall)

Role: Co-Investigator

This study links Medicare claims, Part D prescription drug data, and Minimum Data Set (MDS) resident assessments to generate evidence regarding risk and benefits associated with de-prescribing acetylcholinesterase inhibitors in nursing home residents with advanced dementia.

Total Direct Costs: \$113,538

De-prescribing of Anti-dementia Medications

2/1/2018-7/1/2019

The Pittsburgh Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center

(Co-PIs: Joshua Niznik & Sherrie Aspinall)

Role: Co-Principal Investigator (50% effort, not funded)

This study links Medicare claims, Part D prescription drug data, and Minimum Data Set (MDS) resident assessments to generate evidence regarding risk and benefits associated with de-prescribing acetylcholinesterase inhibitors in nursing home residents with advanced dementia.

Total Direct Costs: \$24,897

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

To Discipline:

National Committees:

Polypharmacy Special Interest Group Co-Chair

2021-present

The American Geriatrics Society

Deprescribing Fall-risk Inducing Drugs Special Interest Group

2021-present

United States Deprescribing Research Network

Research Methods Sub-Committee

2019-present

The American Geriatrics Society

National Post-Graduate Advisory Committee

2018-2019

American Pharmacists Association Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science

Other Committees:

<i>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee</i> UNC Center for Aging and Health	2022-present
<i>Curriculum Assessment Committee</i> University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy	2020-2021
<i>PhD Admissions Committee</i> University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy	2019-present
<i>Graduate Program Curriculum Committee</i> University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy	2017-2019
<i>Chapter President and President-Elect</i> American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists, University of Pittsburgh Chapter	2012-2014
<u>Editorial/Peer-Review Activities:</u> <i>Editorial Board Member</i> Journal of the American Geriatrics Society	2022-present
<i>Abstract Reviewer</i> American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting, American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting, Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology, John B. Graham Student Research Day	2018-present
<i>Reviewer</i> Age & Aging, Alzheimer's and Dementia, American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, Annals of Pharmacotherapy, Annals of Internal Medicine, BMC Cardiovascular Disorders, BMC Geriatrics, BMJ Quality and Safety, Clinical Interventions in Aging, Drugs & Aging, European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy, Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, Journal of the American Medical Association, Journal of the American Medical Directors Association, Journal of General Internal Medicine, Medical Care, Nutrition and Metabolic Insights, Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, Research in Social & Administrative Pharmacy, Therapeutic Advances in Drug Safety	2017-present
<i>Grant Reviewer</i> United States Deprescribing Research Network Pilot Program	2020-present

RESEARCH STATEMENT:

I am a geriatric health services researcher with clinical training in the pharmaceutical sciences. My research interests are focused on evaluating the quality of medications in older adults to improve the safety of medication use in this population. During my training I have developed expertise in pharmacoepidemiology, with strong skills in observational and quasi-experimental study designs, large database analyses, statistical approaches to minimize confounding, responsible conduct of research, scientific writing, and grantsmanship. Most recently, my work has focused on evaluating the impact of deprescribing or discontinuing chronic medications that may no longer have value in nursing home residents with severe dementia as a means for evaluating the quality of prescribing in this population. I have also begun to develop skills in qualitative research and implementation science through my involvement in pragmatic trials of interventions to reduce the use of high-risk medications in older adults. I look forward to continuing to develop these skills as a way to translate my research using observational data into clinical practice. I see my passion for ensuring the quality and safety of medication use in older adults continuing to serve as the foundation for my future research, as I look to build a federally-funded research program in geriatric pharmaceutical health services research.

TEACHING STATEMENT:

In my current role, the main focus of my teaching has been mentorship of trainees in the health sciences with an interest in research. Each year, I serve as an advisor for rising MS2 students in the MSTAR aging research program. I meet with students to discuss topics such as: research best practices, manuscript writing and preparation, professionalism, and general concepts of aging research. In my role as co-Associate Director of the MSTAR program, I am responsible for

developing an 8-week educational curriculum addressing fundamentals of aging research for students. I also serve as a faculty mentor for the Research and Scholarship in Pharmacy program in the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. In this role, I supervise a pharmacy student research project over the course of the second and third years of the program. Finally, I serve as a facilitator for a small group of pharmacy students each spring in a course focused communication and interview skills with patients, advanced pharmacy ethical principles, and interprofessional collaborations for population health management.

My goals as an instructor and mentor are to prepare the next generation of health professionals and pharmaceutical health services researchers with a solid foundation in study designs, research methods, and translation of findings to real-world decision-making in clinical practice. Research is an essential component of healthcare practice, particularly in an age where quality, cost-effectiveness, and efficiency are highly valued as endpoints of care. Evidence-based medicine, fueled by well-designed research, drives clinical-decision making, providing clinicians with guidance on how to best optimize care. Successful teaching is founded upon the creation of a clear path from knowledge to application. I believe that it is the paramount duty of an instructor to be cognizant of the learner's perspective of this path, though it can be increasingly difficult to identify with as we advance in our careers.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION STATEMENT:

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are paramount for ensuring a diverse pipeline of future healthcare workers and aspiring investigators, particularly in geriatric medicine and aging research. Developing a diverse pipeline of scholars and trainees ensures that healthcare delivery and research includes the diverse perspectives of clinicians and patients and holds our healthcare system accountable for addressing any barriers that stand in the way of equitable access to healthcare across populations.

I have participated in a number of webinars and discussions hosted by professional associations (American Geriatrics Society, Gerontological Society of America, International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology) that discuss ways to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into aging research. As a member and leader of several subcommittees and special interest groups for these associations, I am committed to furthering these discussions and identifying ways to incorporate concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion in future research meetings. I currently serve as a member of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee of the Center for Aging and Health and Division of Geriatrics. In my role as a committee member, I attend regular meetings to discuss DEI topics, suggested trainings for faculty and staff, and have taken a leadership role in crafting a DEI statement for the division and center. I am committed to serving as a visible ally and member of the LGBTIQ+ community on campus. I have completed the UNC Safe Zone Training course offered through the LGBT Center at UNC and look forward to future opportunities to engage with the on-campus community. In 2023, I have registered for training to complete the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate Program offered through the UNC School of Medicine.

An awareness of issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion is also key in my role as co-Associate Director of the UNC Chapel Hill MSTAR program. One of our program's main objectives is to increase diversity in the pipeline of aspiring geriatricians and aging researchers. Working closely with the program's leadership team and advisory panel, we regularly evaluate our recruitment and application process and implement changes each year to ensure a more diverse pool of applicants with each cycle of the program. We are currently developing partnerships with historically black colleges and universities to increase awareness of the MSTAR program. We have also actively recruited a number of new faculty mentors over the past few years to increase diversity within the faculty of the program. We are committed to incorporating concepts of health equity and disparities research into our training program. We continue to recruit new faculty mentors that conduct research in health disparities and encourage the inclusion of health disparities in student projects. We have also worked with faculty to develop educational sessions for our trainees that address social determinants of health and ethics of conducting research in vulnerable populations.

SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT:

My current and previous involvement on university-level and national-level committees has taught me the importance of being an engaged and active member of the community of my workplace and my profession. Through service and engagement, I have gained valuable skills in leadership, collaboration, and negotiation that have been instrumental in my transition from graduate trainee to investigator. I see service as an opportunity to contribute my expertise towards advancing the innovation, integrity, and excellence of research at the institution in which I practice. As a geriatric health services researcher, I envision my continued service to have an interdisciplinary approach, encompassing geriatric medicine, clinical pharmacy, pharmacoepidemiology, and health services research on the university-level. I am currently

involved as a member and leader of several subcommittees and special interest groups for national associations and regularly volunteer to serve as peer reviewer for journals and national conferences. I continue to search for additional opportunities for involvement on national committees for aging research as a means to network with experts, identify potential collaborators, and establish my reputation as an investigator in the field of geriatrics.