
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Alsbrook, Karen Elizabeth Sadler

eRA COMMONS USERNAME: KESA72

POSITION TITLE: T32 Predoctoral Fellow/PhD Student

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	START DATE	COMPLETION DATE	FIELD OF STUDY
Baptist College of Health Sciences	BSN	05/1997	05/2000	Nursing
University of Pittsburgh	PhD	08/2018	08/2023 (anticipated graduation)	Nursing
Predoctoral Fellow – T32NR008857: Technology Research in Chronic and Critical Illness	N/A	09/2018	08/2020	Application of technology to nursing science

A. Personal Statement

I am currently a doctoral student at the University of Pittsburgh, where I am working with Dr. Susan Wesmiller as she studies women following breast cancer surgery. My responsibility as a Graduate Student Researcher involves monitoring women during adjuvant therapy assessing symptom burden. Prior to beginning my graduate work, I had over 14 years of experience in Medical/Surgical/Oncology inpatient nursing and over three years' clinical experience with Medical Oncology outpatients. While a Care Coordinator at Mayo Clinic, I realized the importance of timely patient, caregiver, and provider communication. This experience also made me appreciate that patients did not believe that they had the ability to report changes in condition (especially pain) expeditiously. With the attention given to the opioid crisis, this became even worse. Patients who had significant uncontrolled cancer-related pain did not seek more and better medications to relieve their pain, even though they were warranted. My goal for entering the PhD program was to develop strategies for patients experiencing cancer-related pain, thus improving patient outcomes in the shadow of the opioid crisis, which, for patients with cancer, can become a crisis of access. I feel that my years of working with patients with cancer who experienced severe pain coupled with my current work with women being treated for breast cancer uniquely positions me to complete this field of study.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

1998-2000	Student/Registered Nurse, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, TN
2000-2014	Registered Nurse, Charge Nurse, and Nurse Preceptor - Middle Tennessee Medical Center/St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital – Murfreesboro, TN
2014-15	RN Care Coordinator – Genitourinary Medical Oncology Mayo Clinic – Rochester, Minnesota
2016-18	RN Care Coordinator and Nurse Preceptor - Sarcoma Medical Oncology Mayo Clinic – Rochester, Minnesota
2018-Present	Graduate Student Researcher for “Genomic Underpinnings for Breast Cancer Treatment-Induced Nausea and Vomiting (NR016695)” – Dr. Susan W. Wesmiller, Principal Investigator

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

2005-	Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN) – Oncology Nurse Credentialing Center
2013-14	Chairperson – Quality Improvement Team – 4 East St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital – Murfreesboro, Tennessee
2015-18	Patient Education and Nursing Orientation Development Committees Medical Oncology – Mayo Clinic - Rochester, Minnesota
2017-18	Co-Chair – Nursing Professional Development Committee – Medical Oncology Mayo Clinic - Rochester, Minnesota
2018-	Member, Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)
2019-	Member, American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN)
2019-	Member, Sigma International Nursing Honor Society, Eta Chapter

Honors

2000	Inductee - Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society Beta Theta at-Large Chapter – Memphis, Tennessee
2006	Johnson & Johnson Excellence in Nursing Banquet Attendee Nashville, Tennessee
2008	Middle Tennessee Medical Center Nurse of the Year Murfreesboro, Tennessee
2019	Bessie Li Sze Memorial Scholarship for Oncology Nursing – School of Nursing The University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2019	Ruth and Bill Fincke PhD Student Research Award FY20 – School of Nursing The University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2020	Swigart/Gold Doctoral Award for Scholarship in Nursing Ethics FY21 School of Nursing - The University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2020	Presenter – Poster Presentation at the Annual Conference of the American Society for Pain Management Nursing: “Older Women and Opioid Analgesia following Breast Cancer Surgery”

C. Contribution to Science

1. **Graduate Research:** My ongoing predoctoral research focuses on the pain experience of women with early-stage breast cancer. I believe the results from my research will highlight the importance of self-advocacy and patient-provider communication in mitigating pain

related to cancer and its treatment. These concepts are vital components in the improvement of quality of life for all patients with cancer. I recently published a first-author manuscript in the March 2021 edition of *Pain Management Nursing*.

- a. Alsbrook, K.E., Harpel, C.K., Scott, P.W., Hayden, A.D., Dunwoody, C.J., & Wesmiller, S.W. (2021). Older Women and Opioid Analgesia after Breast Cancer Surgery. *Pain management nursing: official journal of the American Society of Pain Management Nurses*, S1524-9042(20)30249-6. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmn.2020.12.010>

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

Scholastic Performance

YEAR	COURSE TITLE	GRADE
BAPTIST COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES		
1997	Medical Terminology	A
1997	Health and Wellness	A
1997	Biomedical Ethics and Values	A
1997	Human Growth and Development	B
1997	Medical Sociology	A
1997	Healthcare Economics	A
1997	Pathophysiology	B
1997	English Composition II	A
1997	World Religions	A
1997	Introduction to Statistical Methods and Research	B
1998	Health Assessment	A
1998	Health Assessment Lab	A
1998	Pharmacology	B
1998	Nursing Research	B
1998	History and Trends in Professional Nursing	A
1998	Critical Elements of Nursing Practice	B
1998	Critical Elements Clinical Practicum	S
1998	Dosage Calculations	A
1999	Promoting Health through Adulthood	B
1999	Health through Adulthood Clinical	S
1999	Promoting Healthy Communities	B
1999	Promoting Healthy Communities Clinical	S
1999	Nursing Practicum	S
1999	Pediatric Nursing	B
1999	Promoting Health in Women and Childbearing	B
1999	Promoting Mental Health in Nursing	B
2000	Nursing Leadership Symposium	A
2000	Clinical Nursing Case Management	B
2000	Gerontologic Nursing	A

YEAR	COURSE TITLE	GRADE
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH		
2018/19/20	Independent Study Courses	A
2018	PhD Research Apprenticeship	S
2018	Applied Parametric/Nonparametric Statistics I	A-
2018	Philosophical Underpinnings of Nursing Research	A
2018	Responsibilities and Activities of a Nursing Scientist I	A-
2019	Manuscript Development	S
2019	PhD Research Apprenticeship	S
2019	Applied Parametric/Nonparametric Statistics II	A-
2019	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing	A+
2019	Research Design and Methods	A
2019	Applied Regression for Health Sciences	A-
2019	Research Measurement	A
2019	Intervention Development	A
2019	Ethics and Responsibilities in the Conduct of Research	A+
2019	Qualitative Research Methods	A
2019	Research Emphasis Seminar: Cancer Survivorship	A+
2020	Introduction to Genetics and Molecular Therapeutics	A
2020	Intensive Methods: Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research	A+
2020	Responsibilities and Activities of a Nursing Scientist II	A+
2020	Art and Science of Teaching and Learning	A
2020	Community Development and Focus Groups	A
2020	State of the Science in Applications of Machine Learning	A
2020	PhD Research Apprenticeship	S
2020	Evidence-Based Approaches to Support Family Caregivers	A+
2020	Current Research on Pain	S
2020	Advanced Quantitative Analytic Methods Seminar	A-