

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Cortney Wolfe-Christensen

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): al6560

POSITION TITLE: Clinical Psychologist

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, MI	BS	05/2001	Biopsychology & Cognitive Science
Oklahoma State University; Stillwater, OK	MS	05/2007	Clinical Psychology
Children's Hospital of Michigan; Detroit, MI	Internship	08/2009	Pediatric Psychology
Oklahoma State University; Stillwater, OK	PhD	12/2009	Clinical Psychology
Children's Hospital of Michigan – PET Center; Detroit, MI	Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship	11/2010	Neuropsychology/ Neuroimaging

A. Personal Statement

I spent the last five years serving as a full-time pediatric psychologist in the Department of Pediatric Urology at the Children's Hospital of Michigan (CHM). In this role, I served as a core member of the multidisciplinary team for treatment of children with Disorders of Sex Development (DSD), and was only one of three full-time psychologists in Pediatric Urology in the country. In addition to providing clinical care to patients with DSD, I was actively involved in conducting independent research projects with this population while also participating in multicenter studies of parents of children with DSD. I have successfully published several manuscripts related to DSD in children and their need for psychosocial care in addition to medical services in both medical and psychological journals. I recently accepted a position at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) where I am now in a position to be involved in multicenter studies on DSD from the coordinating site of an established consortium of hospitals with specializations in treating children with DSD. I am in a unique position to conduct the proposed study, as I am able to use my background in parent and child adjustment to illness and my experience in developing an uncertainty intervention in addition to my more recent work with this understudied population. Parents of children with DSD are at risk for psychological distress, related to secrecy about their child's diagnosis, decisions about medical treatment, and gender assignment. Our multiple publications on these parents were extremely important to the field because they allowed us to provide clinicians with predictors of parental maladjustment.

- Hullmann, S.E., Fedele, D.A., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Mullins, L.L., & Wisniewski, A.B. (2011). Differences in adjustment by developmental stage among caregivers of children with disorders of sex development. *International Journal of Pediatric Endocrinology*, 2011, 16.
- Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Fedele, D.A., Kirk, K., Phillips, T.M., Mazur, T., Mullins, L.L., Chernausek, SD., Lakshmanan, Y., & Wisniewski, A.B. (2012). Degree of external genital malformation at birth in children with a disorder of sex development and subsequent caregiver distress. *Journal of Urology*, 88, 1596-1600.

- Wolfe-Christensen, C.,** Fedele, D.A., Kirk, K. Mullins, L.L., Lakshmanan, Y., & Wisniewski, A.B. (2014). Stress is differentially associated with parenting style and mental health of caregivers of children with a disorder of sex development. *Journal of Pediatric Urology*, 10, 538-543.
- Wolfe-Christensen, C.,** Fedele, DA, Mullins LL, Lakshmanan Y, & Wisniewski, AB. (2014) Differences in anxiety and depression between male and female caregivers of children with a disorder of sex development. *Journal of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 27, 617-621.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

- 2015 – Member, Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience (OCNS), University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.
- 2015 – Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- 2013 – Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical Services, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- 2013 – 2015 Clinical Psychologist, Bladder Bowel Dysfunction Clinic, Children’s Hospital of Michigan
- 2011 – 2015 Clinical Psychologist, Pediatric Pain Management Clinic, Children’s Hospital of Michigan
- 2010 – 2015 Clinical Psychologist. Behavioral Modification for Voiding Dysfunction (BeMVP) Clinic, Children’s Hospital of Michigan
- 2010 – 2015 Clinical Psychologist, Disorders of Sex Development Clinic, Children’s Hospital of Michigan
- 2010 – 2015 Director of Clinical Research & Clinical Psychologist, Department of Pediatric Urology, Children’s Hospital of Michigan
- 2009 – 2010 Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Departments of Pediatrics & Neurology (Translational Imaging/PET Center), Children’s Hospital of Michigan,
- 2008 – 2009 Pediatric Psychology Intern, Department of Child Psychiatry/Psychology, Children’s Hospital of Michigan
- 2007 – 2008 Clinical Practicum Student, Section of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- 2006 – 2007 Clinical Practicum Student, A Better Chance Clinic, University of Oklahoma Child Study Center
- 2005 – 2006 Program Evaluator, Infant Parenting Program, University of Oklahoma Center on Child Abuse and Neglect

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

- 2014 – American Urological Association – Affiliate Member
- 2010 – 2013 American Academy of Pediatrics – Section Affiliate – Urology
- 2009 – 2011 Organization for the Study of Sex Differences Member
- 2006 – 2008 Society of Pediatric Psychology Student Advisory Committee, Co-chair Programming
- 2004 – American Psychological Association Member
Division 54: Society of Pediatric Psychology Member

Honors

- 2013 American Psychological Association Early-Career Travel Award
- 2012 American Urological Association New Investigator’s Workshop Participant
- 2011 Section on Urology Clinical Research Award Finalist
- 2009 Society of Pediatric Psychology Student Spotlight Award
- 2009 Society of Pediatric Psychology Travel Award
- 2008 Oklahoma State University Graduate Research Excellence Award: Masters’ Division
- 2007 & 2008 Oklahoma State University Distinguished Graduate Fellowship

C. Contribution to Science

1. My early research in graduate school focused broadly on parent and child adjustment to chronic illness, as we know that the best predictor of child adjustment to having a chronic illness is their parent’s adjustment to the diagnosis. I was involved as a research assistant on various projects, which included

populations of children with diabetes, asthma, and cystic fibrosis. These early studies and publications were used to inform several locally and federally funded intervention studies for these populations.

- a. Mullins, L.L., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Pai, A.L.H., Carpentier, M.Y., Gillaspay, S., Cheek, J.A., & Page, M.C. (2007). The Relationship Between Parental Overprotection, Perceived Child Vulnerability, and Parenting Stress to Uncertainty in Youth with Chronic Illness. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology, 32*, 973-982.
 - b. **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Isenberg, J.C., Mullins, L.L., Carpentier, M.Y., & Almstrom, C. (2008). Objective versus subjective ratings of asthma severity: Differential predictors of illness uncertainty, and psychological distress in college students with asthma. *Children's Health Care, 37*, 183-195.
 - c. Fedele, D.A., Grant, D.M., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Mullins, L.L., & Ryan, J.L. (2010). An examination of the factor structure of parenting capacity measures in chronic illness populations. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology, 35*, 1083-1092.
 - d. Mullins, L.L., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Chaney, J.M., Elkin, T.D., Wiener, L., Hullmann, S.E., et al (2010). The relationship between single parent status and parenting capacities in mothers of youth with chronic health conditions: The mediating role of income. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 20817713.
 - e. Hullmann, S.E., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Ryan, J.L., Rambo, P.L., Fedele, D.A., Chaney, J.M., & Mullins, L.L. (2010). Parental overprotection, perceived child vulnerability, and parenting stress: A cross-illness comparison. *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings, 17*, 357-365.
2. For my thesis and dissertation, I built on my experience with various chronic illness populations and focused on new diagnoses of pediatric cancer. The shocking diagnosis of pediatric cancer affects the entire family and because we know that parental adjustment is the best predictor of child adjustment, we were interested in identifying which parents were at greatest risk for maladaptive functioning. The variables we studied were specific parenting capacities, including both beliefs about the child and the child's prognosis in addition to parental behaviors towards the child, and overall parental stress. We also measured the emotional, behavioral, and social adjustment in the children to identify bidirectional relationships between the parents and children. This research resulted in numerous publications and provided preliminary data for an NIH-funded R21 study, on which I contributed in terms of writing the research strategy. My role during this time was to be a research assistant under the mentorship of Larry L. Mullins. As such, I was responsible for all aspects of the study, ranging from data collection in the cancer clinic, to database management, and manuscript preparation.
- a. **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Mullins, L.L., Scott, J., & McNall-Knapp, R.Y. (2007). Persistent psychosocial problems in children who develop posterior fossa syndrome after medulloblastoma resection. *Pediatric Blood and Cancer, 49*, 723-726.
 - b. Colletti, C.J.M., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Carpentier, M.Y., Page, M.C., McNall-Knapp, R.Y., Meyer, W.H., Chaney, J.M., & Mullins, L.L. (2008). The relationship of parental overprotection, perceived child vulnerability, and parenting stress to adjustment in youth with cancer. *Pediatric Blood and Cancer, 51*, 269-274.
 - c. **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Mullins, L.L., Carpentier, M.Y., Stinnett, T., & Fedele, D.A. (2009). Use of the behavioral assessment system for children 2nd edition: parent report scale in pediatric cancer populations. *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings, 16*, 322-330.
 - d. **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Mullins, L.L., Fedele, D.A., Rambo, P.L., Eddington, A. & Carpentier, M.Y. (2010). The relationship of caregiver demand to adjustment outcomes in children with cancer: The moderating role of parenting stress. *Children's Health Care, 39*, 108-124.
 - e. Fedele, D.A., Mullins, L.L., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, & Carpentier, M.Y. (2011). Longitudinal assessment of maternal parenting capacity variables and child adjustment outcomes in pediatric cancer. *Journal of Pediatric Hematology Oncology, 33*, 199-202.
3. During my five years of being the psychologist in the Department of Pediatric Urology at the Children's Hospital of Michigan, I provided clinical services to patients with voiding dysfunction and bladder bowel dysfunction. After confirming high comorbidity rates between constipation and voiding dysfunction in our clinic, I collaborated with the pediatric gastroenterologists at CHM and collected data on their patients with functional constipation. The data indicated that children referred to urology for voiding

dysfunction and children referred to gastroenterology for constipation had similar levels of severity of voiding symptoms, stool consistency, and psychosocial difficulties. These findings led to the development of a multidisciplinary clinic, involving, urology, gastroenterology, and psychology for children who had failed first line treatments for Bladder Bowel Dysfunction (BBD). The clinic was held twice per month and was used to treat patients with the most severe BBD and psychosocial problems. We received very positive feedback from our patients in this clinic, as they appreciated the time that was spent with them and the coordination of care by the providers.

- a. **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Guy, W., Mancini, M., Kovacevic, L., & Lakshmanan, Y. (accepted for publication). Evidence for the Need to Use Self-Report Measures of Psychosocial Functioning in Older Children and Adolescents with Voiding Dysfunction. *Journal of Urology*
 - b. **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Fedele, D.A., Grant, D., Veenstra, A.L., Kovacevic, L., Elder, J.S., & Lakshmanan, Y. (2014). Factor analysis of the pediatric symptom checklist in a population of children with voiding dysfunction. *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings*, 21, 72-80. doi: 10.1007/s10880-013-9375-y
 - c. **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Manolis, A., Guy, W.C., Kovacevic, N., Zoubi, N., El-Baba, M., Kovacevic, L.G., Lakshmanan, Y. (2013). Bladder and Bowel Dysfunction: Evidence for Multidisciplinary Care. *Journal of Urology*, 190, 1864-8. doi: 10.1016/j.juro.2013.05.012.
 - d. **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Veenstra, A.L., Kovacevic, L., Elder, J.S., & Lakshmanan, Y. (2012). Psychosocial difficulties in children referred to pediatric urology: A Closer Look. *Urology*, 80, 907-912. doi: 10.1016/j.urology.2012.04.077
4. Clinically, at CHM, I served as the psychologist in the Behavioral Modification and Voiding Program, in which I provided assessment and intervention for children with bedwetting and voiding dysfunction. With my colleagues, we investigated the role of sleep disordered breathing in this population, which co-occurs with bedwetting at very high rates. Additionally, rates of externalizing problems and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are extremely high in this population as well. We evaluated these patients from both medical and psychological perspectives and were able to link sleep disordered breathing, even snoring, the least severe form, to negative psychosocial outcomes.
- a. **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Kovacevic, L., Mirkovic, J., & Lakshmanan, Y. (2013). Lower Health-Related Quality of Life and Psychosocial Difficulties In Children with Nocturnal Enuresis: Is Snoring a Marker of Severity? *Journal of Urology*, 190, 1501-4. doi: 10.1016/j.juro.2013.01.060
 - b. Kovacevic, L.G., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Mirkovic, J., Yih, J., & Lakshmanan, Y. (2014). Renal bladder ultrasound evaluation in monosymptomatic primary nocturnal enuresis: Is it really necessary? *Journal of Pediatric Nephrology*, 29, 1189-1194.
 - c. Kovacevic, L.G., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Lu, H., M., Mirkovic, J., Thottam, P.J. et al. (2014). Why does adenotonsillectomy not correct enuresis in all children with sleep-disordered breathing? *Journal of Urology*, 191, 1592-1596.
 - d. Kovacevic, L., Lu, H., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Lulgjuraj, M., Abdulhamid, I, Thottam, P.J., Madgy, D.N., & Lakshmanan, Y. (2015) Adenotonsillectomy improves quality of life in children with sleep-disordered breathing regardless of nocturnal enuresis outcome. *Journal of Pediatric Urology*, 86, 158-161.
 - e. **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Guy, W.C., Mancini, M., Kovacevic, L., & Lakshmanan, Y. (accepted for publication). Evidence for the Need to Use Self-Report Measures of Psychosocial Functioning in Older Children and Adolescents with Voiding Dysfunction. *Journal of Urology*.
5. In addition to my clinical and independent research responsibilities at CHM, I also served as the Director of Clinical Research and the statistical consultant for the Department of Pediatric Urology. As such I collaborated with my colleagues (i.e., urologists, nephrologists) on research design and statistical analysis for various projects. Several of these projects have resulted in local and federal funding, with my colleague, Dr. Kovacevic receiving an NIH-funded fellowship through the Rare Kidney Disorders Consortium to study nephrolithiasis in children. I have continued to maintain a collaborative relationship with the researchers at CHM.
- a. Kovacevic, L., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Edwards, L. & Lakshmanan, Y. (2012). From hypercalciuria to hypocitraturia - An evolving trend in pediatric urolithiasis? *Journal of Urology*, 88, 1623-1627.

- b. Suson, K.D., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Elder, J.S., & Lakshmanan, Y. (2015) National practice patterns and outcomes of pediatric nephrectomy: Comparison between urology and general surgery. *Journal of Urology*, 193, 1737-1742.
- c. Kovacevic, L., Lu, H., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Abdulhamid, I, Thottam, P.J., Lulgjuraj, M., Madgy, D.N., & Lakshmanan, Y. (2015) Adenotonsillectomy normalizes hormones and urinary electrolytes in children with nocturnal enuresis and sleep-disordered breathing. *Journal of Urology*, 86, 158-161.
- d. Suson, K.D., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Elder, J.S., & Lakshmanan, Y. (in press) Practice patterns and outcomes of pediatric partial nephrectomy in the United States: Comparison between pediatric urology and general pediatric surgery. *Journal of Pediatric Urology*.
- e. Campbell, L., Sammon, J., Rahbar, H., Patel, S., **Wolfe-Christensen, C.**, Kabbani, L., & Shepard, A., (2015) Postoperative urinary retention in men in common after carotid endarterectomy and is associated with advanced age and prior urinary tract infection. *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, doi: 10.1016/j.jvs.2015.08.103. [Epub ahead of print]

D. Research Support

Ongoing Research Support

Source: NICHD R01; R01HD07457901A1
 Title: Short-Term Outcomes of Interventions for Reproductive Dysfunction: Studies 1-3
 PI: Amy Wisniewski, PhD
 Role: Site PI – Study 3; Statistical Consultant
 Dates of project: 09/01/2013 – 8/30/2018
 Description: To examine the short-term effects of genitoplasty in children born with ambiguous genitalia from a cosmetic perspective. Additionally, the emotional, behavioral, and social functioning of parents of children with a Disorder of Sex Development will be examined.

Completed:

Source: **Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation**
 Title: Investigation of whether HPA Dysregulation in Patients with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Results in Neurological Susceptibility to Psychological Distress
 Role: PI
 Dates of project: 07/01/12 – 12/31/13
 Description: To use MRI Diffusion Tensor Imaging to examine the structural anatomy and integrity of specific white matter pathways in the brains of females with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia. Responsibilities include recruiting and consenting patients, scheduling MRI appointments, and conducting neuropsychological evaluations. Statistical analyses and manuscript preparation will occur at the end of the study.

Source: **University of Oklahoma College of Medicine Alumni Association**
 Title: Neuropsychological predictors of long-term social functioning in survivors of pediatric cancer
 PI: Larry L. Mullins
 Role: Co-PI
 Dates of project: 07/01/06 – 06/30/07
 Description: The goal was to determine whether post-treatment neuropsychological functioning predicted long-term social outcomes in children who survived pediatric cancer. Responsibilities included organization and coordination of the study, data management, and manuscript preparation.

Source: **NIH 5R21NR010103-02**
 Title: A clinic-based interdisciplinary intervention for parents of children with cancer
 PI: Larry L. Mullins
 Role: Senior Research Assistant, Technical Writer
 Dates of project: 05/01/08 – 04/30/10
 Description: The aim of the study was to assess the feasibility and efficacy of a clinic-based intervention that combines psychology and nursing in an effort to reduce uncertainty and distress in parents of children newly diagnosed with cancer. Responsibilities included contributing substantially to the writing of the grant, and project organization.