

SOPHIA TSESMELIS PICCOLINO, DSW, LCSW, OSW-C

New York University ♦ Silver School of Social Work ♦ 1 Washington Square North ♦ New York, NY 10003
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Education

New York University Silver School of Social Work

Doctor of Clinical Social Work, May 2022

New York University Ehrenkranz School of Social Work

Master of Social Work, 2006; Licensed Clinical Social Worker, 2010; Seminar in Field Instruction certified, 2010

New York University College of Arts & Sciences

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Hellenic Studies, 2003 CAS Merit Scholarship; CAS Dean's Fellow Scholarship

Publications

Tsesmelis Piccolino, S. T. (2022). Vicarious Resilience: Traversing the Path From Client to Clinician Through a Search for Meaning. *Social Health in Health Care*, 1-15. 10.1080/00981389.2022.2134274

Piccolino, S. T. (2020). On the front lines of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic: Meaning-making and shared trauma. *Shared trauma, shared resilience during a pandemic* (pp. 33-37). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Piccolino, S. T., Gribetz, A., Smith, C. B., Schnurman, K.S., (2019) Chemo Companions Program, *Oncology Issues*, 34:5, 40-45.

Presentations

Tsesmelis Piccolino, S., "Vicarious Resilience: Fostering Meaning Through Companionship in Clinical Practice," paper presentation at the *Association of Oncology Social Work Conference*, New Orleans, LA, June 2023

Tsesmelis Piccolino, S., "The Supervisory Relationship; The Impact of Healthcare Regulations through COVID-19 on this Profound Dyad," paper presentation at the *International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision*, Washington D.C., July 2021.

Piccolino, S., "The Chemo Companions Program; A Partnership of Support Between Patients and Medical Students", podium presentation at the *Association of Community Cancer Centers Conference*, Phoenix, Arizona, October, 2018

Piccolino, S., & Warbet, R. "Ethical Dilemmas in Assessing Eligibility for Bone Marrow Transplantation", podium presentation at the *Association of Oncology Social Work Conference*, Baltimore, Maryland May, 2014

Professional Experience

Academic Appointments

Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of the Zelda Foster Studies Program in Palliative and End-of-Life Care – New York University, Silver School of Social Work, 2024

Adjunct Lecturer - New York University, Silver School of Social work, 2021-2024

Adjunct Lecturer - Fordham University, Graduate School of Social Service, 2022

Teaching

New York University, Silver School of Social Work

- Grief Loss and Bereavement
- Practice III
- Practice IV
- Human Behavior I
- Human Behavior III

Fordham University, Graduate School of Social Service

- Grief Loss and Bereavement

Private Practice Owner in Clinical Social Work; STP LCSW PLLC 2019-Present

Psychotherapy, Supervision and Consultation specializing in oncology, grief and loss

- Provide therapeutic intervention service and support to individuals, couples and families
- Clinical supervision and consultation for clinicians in the field of oncology, grief and loss
- Clinical focus on individuals, families and loved ones traversing cancer, chronic illness, life limiting or threatening illness, trauma grief and loss
- Complete intake assessment; maintain electronic files and documentation in compliance with state and federal guidelines; continuous treatment planning and progress review ensuring quality and effective treatment

Zelda Foster Program in Palliative and End-of-life Care New York, NY

Clinical Mentor, 2022-Present

- Mentorship for an MSW graduate/Zelda Foster Fellow through biweekly hourly mentoring sessions over a two-year time period
- Mentoring through a collaborative learning experience focused on helping the Fellow to identify and achieve professional development goals and to promote professional and personal growth.
- Supporting the Fellow in working in the field, develop professional competence and confidence, understanding strengths and learning needs, and deal effectively with organizational and other challenges

Board of Oncology Social Workers Certification, Board of Directors, 2024

- Promoting and elevating the field of Oncology Social Work; Advancing standards of practice and advancing the Oncology Social Work Certification (OSW-C); Actively participating in monthly Board of OSW-C (BOSWC) meetings; Reviewing applications for OSW certification

Journal of Psychosocial Oncology (JPO), Editorial Board, 2023-Present

- Reviewing manuscripts submitted to the Journal consistently throughout the year; Identifying future possible papers presented at conferences and seminars; Providing advice on the strategic direction of the Journal; Participating in Editorial Board meetings and serving as a mentor for a reviewer-in-training; Promoting the JPO by distribution of promotional material

Red Door Community (Formerly Gida's Club NYC) New York, NY

Clinical group facilitator and lecturer, 2019-Present

- Facilitate a monthly Blood Cancer support group, offering psychoeducation and clinical oncology social work support to individuals impacted by a blood cancer diagnosis
- Facilitate psychoeducation lectures and workshops for individuals, families and loved ones impacted by cancer; January 2020 "Caring the Caregiver Lecture" – opening lecture for a series on supporting caregivers. Partnership of Red Door Community and Ronald McDonald House

Mount Sinai Hospital New York, NY

Oncology Social Work Program Coordinator, Dubin Breast Center/Ruttenberg Treatment Center, 2016-2021

- Supervision of oncology social workers in multiple oncology service areas
- Leadership and oversight of the SW Breast Health Resource Program of the Dubin Breast Center
- Psychosocial Coordinator of the cancer center wide Distress Screening Tool; hospital system wide implementation and operational management, data analysis, ongoing support for multidisciplinary staff in use and follow-up
- Commission on Cancer Psychosocial co-leader and cancer center SW representative for the Oncology Care Model
- Oversight of the Breast Health Resource Program Budget and Patient Assistance Fund, providing care to uninsured and underinsured community members at risk for breast cancer
- Collaboration and continuity of grant application for grant funded clinical social work position in Dubin
- Founder and Supervisor of the Chemo Companions Program, comprised of Mt. Sinai medical students who volunteer to be companions for patients undergoing cancer treatment
- Center for Stress Resilience and Personal Growth; clinician in the program offering psychosocial evaluation and mental health screening and triage for employees within the Mount Sinai Health System
- Facilitator of support and wellness group for the Cancer Center's Hematology-Oncology fellows.
- Wellness program facilitator; facilitator of hospital wide support and wellness groups in addition to crisis wellness debriefs for hospital staff, including medical and graduate school students and staff

- Co-preceptor in Icahn School of Medicine's Arts & Sciences in Medicine Course. Educated first year medical students on the social work role and perspective in patient care

Bone Marrow Transplant/Hematology Social Worker, 2012-2016

- Provided social work under a continuity of care model for inpatient and outpatient BMT service
- Provided ongoing counseling, support, psychoeducation, advocacy, and discharge planning services to patients and families affected by hematologic malignancies. Conduct psychosocial assessments, collaborate with interdisciplinary team to help patients prepare for bone marrow transplantation, develop goals of care for critically ill patients and support families through the grief process as appropriate
- Utilized cognitive behavioral practices, supportive psychotherapy, hypnotic and relaxation techniques, and guided imagery to alleviate symptoms of anxiety and depression
- Facilitator of a psychoeducation support program for children whose parents have a cancer diagnosis; CLIMB
- Facilitate the connection of patients with appropriate resources in the community; Provide guidance and support around the financial impact of cancer, navigating insurances, entitlements and benefits
- Provide supervision to Master level social work students and training to new social work staff

Oncology Social Worker; Outpatient, 2009-2012

- Provided multilevel screening, evaluation, and psychosocial assessment and intervention for solid oncology and hematology oncology patients in Mt. Sinai's Rutenberg Cancer Treatment Center
- Provided ongoing counseling, support, and psychoeducation to patients and families affected by cancer along the illness continuum through stages of initial diagnosis, active treatment, post-treatment, and palliative care support
- Facilitated the connection of oncology patients with appropriate resources in the community, provided support around financial issues, insurances, and benefits entitlement guidance

Pediatric Social Worker, 2008-2009

Children's Aid Society, PINS Diversion Brooklyn, NY

Social Worker, 9/06-8/08

Certification Trainings

Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy

Certificate of completion in MCP for Cancer Care providers; Memorial Sloan Kettering

National Cancer Institute Training Project New York, NY

Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Training for Cancer Clinicians

Center for the Advancement of Training in Clinical Hypnosis New York, NY

Certificate of Completion; Beginner Level Course in Clinical Hypnosis

Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery, Treehouse Foundation

Certificate of Completion of CLIMB program/support training

Ackerman Institute for the Family New York, NY

Certificate of Completion of Foundations in Family Therapy Course

Languages

Proficient in Greek

Professional Affiliations

- Certified Oncology Social Worker
- Member of the Association of Oncology Social Work