

# MEREDITH K. REFFNER COLLINS, PHD



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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### **Postdoctoral Associate, July 2023 – present**

Rutgers Cancer Institute, Section of Pediatric Population Science, Outcomes, and Disparities Research, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Mentor: Katie Devine, PhD, MPH

## EDUCATION

**PhD**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2023, Mass Communication

**MA**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2019, Media and Communication

**BAJ**, Indiana University Bloomington, 2012, Journalism (with Highest Distinction)

## GRANTS: ACTIVE

### **Leveraging Entertainment Media Narratives to Empower Supportive Conversations Between Young Adult Cancer Survivors and Friends (COCR25PDF018)**

New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research | \$200,000

Principal Investigator

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*Trainee authors are indicated by \**

- 16 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Levonyan-Radloff, K., McLaughlin, J., Masterston, M., & Devine, K.A. (2025). Facilitating self-management in young adult survivors of childhood cancer using the Managing Your Health (MYH) app: Design workshops and usability testing. *JMIR Cancer*. In press. [Q2 Oncology; Q2 Cancer Research]
  
- 15 Gray, J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Comello, M.L.G. (2025). Help or hindrance: examining disability media exposure, stigmatization, and support. *Communication Monographs*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03637751.2025.2514469> [Q1 Communication; Q1 Linguistics & Language]

14 Bono, M.H., Reese, S., Levonyan-Radloff, K., Donovan, K.A., Sahler, O.J.Z., Barnett, M.E., **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Devine, K.A. (2025). "There's a lot of unknowns": A thematic analysis of the experiences of young adults with cancer who died during a psychosocial intervention trial. *BMC Palliative Care*. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-025-01725-2> [Q1 Medicine (miscellaneous)]

13 Ma, H., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Ritchie, C., Galper, E.F., Sheeran, P., Sutfin, E., & Noar, S.M. (2024). How do behavioral framing, linguistic certainty, and target specification impact responses to vaping prevention messages? A national experiment. *Journal of Health Communication*, 29(7), 420-431. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10810730.2024.2355299> [Q1 Communication]

12 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Lazard, A.J., Comello, M.L.G., Dillman Carpentier, F.D.R., Kent, E.E., Benedict, C., & \*Yu, C. (2024). Understanding young adult cancer survivors' responses to cancer storylines in entertainment media narratives. *Journal of Adolescent & Young Adult Oncology*, 13(6), 867-875. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jayao.2023.0175> [Q1 Pediatrics, Perinatology, & Child Health; Q2 Oncology]

11 **Collins, M. K. R.**, Lazard, A.J., Dillman Carpentier, F.D.R., Comello, M. L.G., Benedict, C., Kent, E.E., & \*Yu, C. (2024). Reel reflections: The role of entertainment media narratives in coping among young adult cancer survivors. *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology*, 42(6), 822-843. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07347332.2024.2337043> [Q2 Applied Psychology; Q3 Oncology; Q3 Psychiatry & Mental Health]

10 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Lazard, A.J., Hedrick McKenzie, A.M., & \*Varma, T. (2024). "It's nothing like cancer": Young adults with cancer reflect on memorable entertainment narratives. *Health Communication*, 39(3), 552-562. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2023.2174403> [Q1 Communication; Q1 Health (social science)]

9 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2024). Reel resilience: Unveiling the potential role of entertainment media narratives in improving psychological well-being among adolescent and young adult cancer survivors. *Journal of Adolescent & Young Adult Oncology*, 12(5), 365- 368. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jayao.2023.0114> [Q1 Pediatrics, Perinatology, & Child Health; Q2 Oncology]

8 Lazard, A.J., Meernik, C., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Vereen, R., Benedict, C., Valle, C.G., & Love, B. (2023). Social media use for cancer support among young adults with cancer. *Journal of Adolescent & Young Adult Oncology*, 12(5), 674 – 684. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jayao.2023.0025> [Q1 Pediatrics, Perinatology, & Child Health; Q2 Oncology]

7 Hwang, S., Lazard, A.J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Brenner, A.T., Heiling, H.M., Deal, A., Crockett, S., Reuland, D., & Lafata, J.E. (2023). Exploring the acceptability of text messages to inform and support shared decision making for colorectal cancer screening. *JMIR Cancer*, 9, e40917. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2196/40917> [Q2 Oncology; Q3 Cancer Research]

6 Cornacchione Ross, J., Lazard, A.J., Hedrick McKenzie, A.M., **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Sutfin, E. (2023). What cigarillo companies are putting on Instagram: A content analysis of Swisher Sweets' marketing from 2013 – 2020. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, 25(4), 755 – 762. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntac255> [Q1 Public Health, Environmental, and Occupational Health]

5 **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Lazard, A.J. (2021). How narrative engagement with young adult literature influences perceptions of anorexia nervosa. *Health Communication*, 36(13), 1646 – 1655. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2020.1785375> [Q1 Communication; Q1 Health (social science)]

- 4 Benedict, C., Lazard, A.J., Smith, S.M., Agrawal, A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Love, B. (2021). A peer-to-peer support app for young adults affected by cancer: Evaluating user experience based on theories of technology acceptance and social presence. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 49(5), 497 - 515. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00909882.2021.1971737> [Q1 Communication; Q1 Linguistics and Language]
- 3 Lazard, A.J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Hedrick, A.M., \*Varma, T., Love, B., Valle, C.G., Brooks, E., & Benedict, C. (2021). Using social media for peer-to-peer social support among young adults with cancer. *JMIR Cancer*, 7(3), e28234. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2196/28234> [Q3 Oncology; Q3 Cancer Research]
- 2 Lazard, A.J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Hedrick, A.M., Horrell, L.N., \*Varma, T., Love, B., Valle, C.G., & Benedict, C. (2021). Initiation and changes in use of social media for peer support among young adults with cancer. *Psycho-Oncology*, 30(11), 1859 - 1865. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pon.5758> [Q1 Experimental and Cognitive Psychology; Q1 Oncology; Q1 Psychiatry and Mental Health]
- 1 Kresovich, A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Dillman Carpentier, F.D.R., & Riffe, D. (2021). 808s & chart place: A longitudinal content analysis of mental health discourse in popular rap music. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 175(3), 286 – 292. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2020.5155> [Q1 Pediatrics, Perinatology, and Child Health]

**Note:** Following the citation information for each article, I have provided the SCImago rating in brackets. SCImago Journal and Country Rank (SJR) presents an “average prestige per paper” figure by combining both the number of citations issued by the journal as well as the influence of the individuals who cite from the journal. Scores among journals in a discipline are divided into quartile rankings (Q1-Q4), and Q1 denotes a journal in the top 25% of the distribution of all journals for a given subject category. For each article, the quartile ranking given reflects the journal’s ranking in the article’s publication year.

## PUBLICATIONS: REVISE & RESUBMIT

- 1 Amaro, C.M., \*Silver, S., \*Patel, P., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Canter, K.S., Fooks-Parker, S., Amylon, M., Hudson, S.V., Schleider, J.L., Alderfer, M.A., & Devine, K.A. *Exploring preferences for a digital single-session intervention for adolescent siblings of youth with cancer*.

## PUBLICATIONS: IN SUBMISSION

- 2 Amaro, C.M., **Collins, M.K.R.**, \*Silver, S., Ramji, A.V., Zheng, Y., Noser, A.E., & Roberts, M.C. *Supporting siblings of children with chronic medical conditions: A systematic review*.
- 1 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Lazard, A.J., Comello, M.L.G., Dillman Carpentier, F.D.R., Kent, E.E., & Benedict, C. *Using eudaimonic narratives to encourage social support for young adults with cancer*.

## GRANTS: IN SUBMISSION

**Developing and Testing a Narrative-Based Relational Maintenance Intervention to Improve Psychosocial Health in Young Adult Cancer Survivors**  
*National Cancer Institute*

Principal Investigator  
Expected Submission February 2026

## GRANTS: COMPLETED

- 4 **Administrative Supplement to Bright IDEAS-YA (R37CA240807)**  
*National Cancer Institute* | \$100,000  
Co-Investigator | PI: Katie A. Devine, PhD, MPH  
September 1, 2024 – August 30, 2025
- 3 **Engaging Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer via a Social Support App (133694-PEP-19-154-01-PCSM)**  
*American Cancer Society* | \$144,000  
Graduate Research Assistant | PI: Allison Lazard, PhD  
August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021
- 2 **Text Messaging to Enhance the Use of Patient-Target Decision Support Among Diverse Populations**  
*University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center* | \$199,987  
Graduate Research Assistant | PI: Jennifer Elston Lafata, PhD  
August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020
- 1 **Understanding Industry-Sponsored Cigarillo Digital Marketing Visual Strategies and Tactics**  
*Wake Forest Tobacco Control Center for Excellence* | \$55,229  
Graduate Research Assistant | PI: Jennifer Cornacchione Ross, PhD  
August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 3 **Minnie A. & Eli S. Rubinstein Research Award, May 2022**  
Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- 2 **Margaret Blanchard Dissertation Support Award, May 2022**  
Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- 1 **Selected Participant, July 2021**  
How Stories Affect our Lives: The Psychology of Narrative Impact (SALON) Summer School  
University of Würzburg, Würzburg, Bavaria, Germany

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*Trainee authors are indicated by \**

- 28 **Collins, M.K.R., Anca, R., Pusuloori, B., & Devine, K.A. (2026, March). *Depictions of Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer in Popular Movies 2013 – 2023* [Podium presentation]. American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, United States.**

27 Devine, K.A., Barnett, M., Donovan K., Thompson, L., Kearney, J., Manne, S., Levonyan-Radloff, K., Diaz, D., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Li, S., Ohman-Strickland, P., & Sahler, O.J.Z. (2025, June). *Results of a multisite randomized trial of Bright IDEAS-Young Adults: Efficacy of problem-solving skills training on distress and health-related quality of life* [Oral presentation]. American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, United States.

26 \*Patel, P., Silver, S., Ramji, A.V., **Collins, M.K.R.**, \*Paek, H., & Amaro, C.M. (2025, May). *Exploring the unmet needs of adolescent siblings of children with cancer: A mixed-methods analysis* [Poster presentation]. Rutgers Cancer Institute Annual Retreat on Cancer Research, New Brunswick, NJ, United States.

25 Silver, S., \*Patel, P., Ramji, A.V., **Collins, M.K.R.**, \*Paek, H., & Amaro, C.M. (2025, May). *Tailoring a single-session intervention for adolescent siblings of children with cancer: Recommendations from families and professionals* [Poster presentation]. Rutgers Cancer Institute Annual Retreat on Cancer Research, New Brunswick, NJ, United States.

24 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Senger, A., Ramji, A.V., Carey, D., Stephens, S., Masterson, M., Long-Traynor, K., Daniel, L., Devine, K.A., & Amaro, C.M. (2025, March). *Needs of siblings of Childhood, Adolescent, and Young Adult (CAYA) cancer survivors and the association with psychosocial functioning* [Poster presentation]. American Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, United States.

23 Devine, K.A., Barnett, M., Donovan, K.A., Thompson, L., Kearney, J., Manne, S. Levonyan-Radloff, K., Diaz, D., Dugad, S., Boukhalfa, N., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Li, S., Ohman-Strickland, P. Sahler, O.J.Z. (2025, March). *Unmet needs of young adults newly diagnosed with cancer* [Paper presentation]. Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, United States.

22 **Collins, M.K.R.** & \*Pusuloori, B. (2024, November). *Leveraging entertainment media narratives to empower supportive conversations between young adult cancer survivors (YACS) and friends* [Poster presentation]. New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Symposium, Princeton, NJ, United States.

21 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2024, May). *Can eudaimonic narratives increase healthy peers' provision of social support for young adults with cancer?* [Poster presentation]. Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Annual Retreat on Cancer Research, New Brunswick, NJ, United States.

20 Horvath, L.A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, \*Sirota, J., \*Patel, P., Senger, A., Fooks-Parker, S., Amylon, M., Hudson, S.V., Canter, K.S., Alderfer, M.A., Devine, K.A., & Amaro, C.M. (2024, May). *Understanding community members' perceptions of digital health interventions to support adolescent siblings of children with cancer* [Poster presentation]. Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Annual Retreat on Cancer Research, New Brunswick, NJ, United States.

19 \*Patel, P., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Horvath, L.A., \*Sirota, J., Senger, A., Fooks-Parker, S., Amylon, M. Hudson, S.V., Canter, K.S., Alderfer, M.A., Devine, K.A., & Amaro, C.M. (2024, May). *Preferences for a digital single-session intervention for adolescent siblings of children with cancer* [Poster presentation]. Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Annual Retreat on Cancer Research, New Brunswick, NJ, United States.

18 Horvath, L.A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, \*Sirota, J., \*Patel, P., Senger, A., Fooks-Parker, S., Amylon, M., Hudson, S.V., Canter, K.S., Alderfer, M.A., Devine, K.A., & Amaro, C.M. (2024, May). *Understanding community members' perceptions of single-session interventions to support adolescent siblings of children with cancer* [Poster presentation]. Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Pediatrics Research Day, New Brunswick, NJ, United States.

17 Amaro, C.M., Horvath, L.A., \*Sirota, J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, \*Silver, S., \*Patel, P., Senger, A., Canter, K. S., Fooks-Parker, S., Amylon, M., Hudson, S.V., Alderfer, M.A., & Devine, K.A. (2024, March). *Engaging*

community members in developing a digital single-session intervention for adolescent siblings of children with cancer [Poster presentation]. American Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM, United States.

- 16 **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Benedict, C. (2024, March). *Lights, camera, emotional processing: Coping through narrative entertainment media among young adult cancer survivors* [Live research spotlight]. Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, United States.
- 15 Ma, H., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Ritchie, C., Galper, E.F., Sheeran, P., Sutfin, E., & Noar, S. M. (2023, November). *How do behavioral framing, certainty, and target influence receptivity to vaping prevention messages? A national experiment* [Paper presentation]. National Communication Association Annual Convention, National Harbor, MD, United States.
- 14 **Collins, M.K.R.**, & \*Yu, C. (2023, October). *Lights, camera, cancer: Young adult cancer survivors' reactions to entertainment narratives* [Poster presentation]. Joint Rutgers Cancer Institute & Ludwig Branch Princeton University Annual Research Symposium, Princeton, NJ, United States.
- 13 Cornacchione Ross, J., Lazard, A.J., Hedrick, A.M., **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Sutfin, E. (2022, March). *Selling propositions & flavors: Persuasive strategies used by Swisher Sweets on Instagram* [Poster presentation]. Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Conference, Baltimore, MD, United States.
- 12 Lafata, J.E., Hwang, S., Lazard, A.J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Fleming, P.J., Brenner, A.T., Crockett, S., Cykert, S., & Reuland, D. (2021, October) *Text messaging to support shared decision making in colorectal cancer screening: Acceptability among racially diverse adults* [Paper presentation]. Academy for Communication in Healthcare International Conference on Communication in Healthcare Conference, Virtual.
- 11 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Lazard, A.J., Hedrick, A.M., & \*Varma, T. (2021, August) *"It's nothing like cancer": Examining how young adults with cancer perceive and use entertainment media following diagnosis* [Paper presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 10 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Lazard, A.J., & Lafata, J.E. (2021, May) *Current and potential future uses of text messaging in healthcare among diverse populations* [Paper presentation]. International Communication Association Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 9 Lafata, J.E., Lazard, A.J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Fleming, P.J., Brenner, A.T., Crockett, S., Cykert, S., & Reuland, D. (2021, March) *The acceptability of text messaging to reach racially diverse adults eligible for colorectal cancer screening* [Paper presentation]. American Society of Preventive Oncology Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 8 Lazard, A.J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Hedrick, A.M., \*Varma, T., Love, B., Valle, C., Brooks, E., & Benedict, C. (2021, March) *Using social media for support among young adults with cancer* [Poster presentation]. American Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 7 Lazard, A.J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Hedrick, A.M., Horrell, L.N., \*Varma, T., Love, B., & Benedict, C. (2021, March) *Initiation and changes in use of social media for peer support among young adults with cancer* [Poster presentation]. American Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 6 Gray, J., & **Collins, M.K.R.** (2020, August). *Help or hindrance: Examining disability media exposure, stigmatization, and support* [Poster presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference, Virtual.

- 5 Lazard, A.J., & **Collins, M.K.R.** (2020, April). *This is my story: Processing of narratives and testimonials about adolescent e-cigarette use* [Paper presentation]. Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Virtual.
- 4 Lazard, A.J., Cornacchione Ross, J., Hursting, L., **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Sutfin, E. (2020, April). *Leveraging listicles (list articles) to educate young adults about the harms of e-cigarettes* [Poster presentation]. Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Virtual.
- 3 **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Lazard, A.J. (2019, August). *How narrative engagement with young adult literature influences perceptions of anorexia nervosa* [Paper presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- 2 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2019, May). *Gendered violence in contemporary young adult literature* [Paper presentation]. International Communication Association Conference, Washington D.C., United States.
- 1 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2019, March). Secret's out: Is medical information ever truly private? [Paper presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium, Columbia, SC, United States.

## SELECTED INVITED LECTURES & NON-REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- 7 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2025, April). Leveraging entertainment media narratives to empower supportive conversations between young adult cancer survivors and their friends. Presentation to Scholar Seminar Series, Rutgers Cancer Institute, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 6 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2024, May). Using entertainment media narratives to improve psychological and social outcomes for young adult cancer survivors. Presentation to Scholar Seminar Series, Rutgers Cancer Institute, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 5 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2023, January). Integrating Research into Practice. Presentation to MEJO 671: Social Marketing, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 4 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2022, October). Narrative Persuasion. Presentation to COMM 3360: Media Psychology, Clemson University Department of Communication, Virtual.
- 3 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2022, August). Integrating Research into Practice. Presentation to MEJO 671: Social Marketing, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 2 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2020, October). Narrative Persuasion. Presentation to MEJO 445: Processes and Effects of Mass Communication, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 1 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2020, August). Survey Research Roundtable. Presentation to MEJO 861: Seminar in Survey Research Methods, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, Chapel Hill, NC.

## UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

### Media Ethics, Summer 2022

Undergraduate ethics course required for majors and minors  
Online only | Enrollment: 17

**Advertising & Public Relations Research Methods**

Undergraduate research methods required for Ad/PR majors/minors

*Spring 2022:* In Person | Enrollment: 30

*Fall 2021:* In Person | Enrollment: 28

**HONORS THESIS  
(UNDERGRADUATE) ADVISING****Reader, Spring 2021**

Molly Brice

Hussman School of Journalism and Media

Thesis: Bridging gaps in adolescent understanding of sexual assault and sexual violence through young adult literature

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE &  
LEADERSHIP****Committee Member, April 2025 – present**

American Psychosocial Oncology Society Research Committee

**President, August 2022 – May 2023 & August 2018 – May 2019**

Hussman School of Journalism and Media Graduate Student Association

**Committee Member, August 2021 – May 2022**

Hussman School of Journalism and Media PhD Visit Planning Committee

**Student Liaison, August 2020 – May 2021**

Hussman School of Journalism and Media PhD Advisory Committee

**Committee Member, August 2017 – May 2019**

Hussman School of Journalism and Media MA Visit Planning Committee

**EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE****Editorial Board, January 2025 – present**

Annals of Behavioral Medicine

**Peer Reviewer, Ad Hoc**

Health Communication

JMIR Cancer

Journal of Adolescent & Young Adult Oncology

Journal of Clinical Nursing

Patient Education and Counseling

PLOS Digital Health

**Conference Reviewer, Ad Hoc**

National Communication Association

International Communication Association

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Participant, March 2024 – May 2024**

Learning Mentoring

The McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton, NJ, United States

### **Participant, February 2024 – January 2025**

Peer Reviewer Academy

Society of Behavioral Medicine, United States

### **Participant, September 2018**

Cognitive Interviewing Short Course

The Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, Chapel Hill, NC, United States

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

### **Community Development Specialist, June 2015 – June 2017**

Microsoft

Columbus, Ohio

### **Account Manager, April 2014 – April 2015**

NetJets

Columbus, Ohio

### **Development Associate, June 2012 – September 2013**

Make-A-Wish Ohio, Kentucky, & Indiana

Cincinnati, Ohio