

COURTNEY PEASANT BONNER

Summary of Professional Experience

Courtney Peasant Bonner is a senior research psychologist in RTI's Substance Use, Gender, and Applied Research Program with more than a decade of experience addressing the intersection of mental health, substance use, and sexual and reproductive health. Her professional experiences include conducting community-based participatory and implementation research to examine health disparities among vulnerable populations, including young women.

Education

PhD, Clinical Psychology, The University of Memphis, Department of Psychology Research Area: Clinical Health Psychology, Memphis, TN, 2014.

MS, Psychology, The University of Memphis, Department of Psychology, Memphis, TN, 2011.

BS, Psychology (minor: Business Administration), Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL, 2008.
Graduated summa cum laude.

Relevant Current Project Experience

GODDESS (Gathering Online for Dialogue and Discussion to Enhance Social Support): Engaging Young African American Women in a Virtual Group App to Address Alcohol Misuse, Sexual Risk, and PrEP in NC (2022 to date)—*Co-Investigator (Co-I)*. This R01 is funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA; R01AA030452; PI: Browne) and aims to test a virtual peer support group, with the goal of reducing alcohol misuse and sexual risk and increasing pre-exposure prophylaxis use (PrEP) for HIV prevention among young women.

Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment Simulation: Modeling Treatment Impacts on Alcohol Related Disparities (2022-2027)—*Expert Advisor*. This NIAAA- funded (R01AA029812; PI: Karriker-Jaffe) project uses existing survey and administrative data to simulate multiple, simultaneous improvements in access to care across the continuum from screening for unhealthy drinking to treatment and recovery support to model long-term impacts on recovery from alcohol use disorder.

The IMPROV Project: Improving the Integration of Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment into Ryan White-Funded Care Sites in Atlanta Using an Implementation Science Approach (2020-to date)—*Principal Investigator (PI)*. This implementation science study is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (R34MH124628) and is adapting a stigma-reduction training to reduce clinic-level stigma; developing a prescribing platform to help providers' clinical decision-making regarding pharmacotherapy for mental health disorders and/or alcohol use disorders and testing the platform's feasibility in Ryan White-funded care sites in the Atlanta area.

Couples Health CoOp (CHC+) (2020- date) — *Co-I*. This National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA; R01DA049612; MPIs: Wechsberg, Browne, Carney)-funded project addresses substance use, other risk behaviors, ART, and PrEP, and the impact of stigma reduction workshops in the community in Cape Town, South Africa.

Implementation Science Study to Evaluate Strategies to Support HIV Prevention among Women (2021 to date)—*Principal Investigator (PI)*. This study examines implementation strategies of injectable PrEP for HIV prevention among women in high HIV prevalence areas in the United States.

The EMPOW-HER Project: Educating Medical Providers on Women-Controlled HIV Prevention to Expand Reach to African American Women in Atlanta (2020 to date)—*Project Director (PD)*. This implementation science pilot study is funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (P30AI050410; PI: Swanstrom) and is adapting

and evaluating an online training to preexposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention (PrEP) training to increase on PrEP knowledge and provision of PrEP among sexual and reproductive healthcare providers who serve Black women.

The PREPaRE Pretoria Project: PRevention, Empowering, and PRotecting Young Women in South Africa (2017 to date)—*Co-I*. This implementation study, funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R01HD094629; PI: Wechsberg), aims to increase uptake and adherence of preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention among vulnerable HIV-negative adolescent girls and young women aged 16 to 24 who engage in high-risk sex, by using a multilevel HIV prevention strategy that addresses stigma and discrimination, social support, and individual risk behaviors across 12 healthcare centers.

Young Women-Focused HIV Prevention: Seek & Test in North Carolina Clinics (2016 to date)—*Research Associate*. The goal of this NIDA-funded (R01 DA041009; MPI: Wechsberg, Browne) study is to develop and test the efficacy of an age-appropriate, woman-focused HIV intervention initiated in HIV testing clinics that will provide risk reduction, empowerment skills, and linkage to substance abuse treatment.

Selected Past Project Experience

RE-WoRKD: REcommendations of Young Women for Research and Knowledge Development (2018 to 2020)—*PI*. This pilot study is funded by the Fordham HIV and Drug Abuse Prevention Research Ethics Training Institute, through NIDA (R25DA031608; PI: Fisher), and examines the experiences of young women who participate in HIV prevention research to improve the development of ethical research practices among vulnerable young women in Cape Town, South Africa.

Expanding HIV Testing and Prevention to Reach Vulnerable Young Women (Young Women's Health CoOp) (2018 to 2020)—*Diversity Supplement Scholar*. The goal of this NIDA-funded (R01DA041227; PI: Wechsberg) supplemental study was to assess comorbid mental health symptomology and substance abuse among young women in the study and understand the feasibility of integrating mental health, substance abuse treatment, and HIV treatment and prevention services for young women in South Africa.

Implementation Research of the Women's Health CoOp in South Africa (2016 to 2020)—*Research Associate*. This 5-year NIAAA-funded R01 project (R01AA022882; PI: Wechsberg) developed and tested an implementation strategy for integrating a woman-focused evidence-based intervention to reduce substance use and HIV transmission risk and increase adherence to antiretroviral therapy into eight public health clinics and substance use treatment centers in Cape Town, South Africa. Assisted with qualitative data collection, led data collection and analyses to assess the cost of implementing the intervention into usual health care settings in South Africa, and co-authored manuscripts and presentations.

Combination Prevention for Vulnerable Women in South Africa (Women's Health CoOp Plus) (2016 to 2019)—*Research Associate*. This 5-year study (R01DA032061; PI: Wechsberg) compared the effectiveness of the standard test, treat, and retain model (TTR) versus an enhanced, woman-focused model that integrates the TTR with the Women's Health CoOp PLUS intervention among vulnerable women at high risk for HIV in Tshwane, South Africa. Led data analyses and significantly contributed to manuscript preparation.

Improving Brief Alcohol Interventions with a Behavioral Economic Supplement (2012 to 2013)—*Clinical Interviewer/Research Assistant*. The purpose of this randomized controlled trial, which was funded by NIAAA (R21AA016304), was to improve and evaluate the efficacy of the brief intervention on the basis of motivational interviewing and behavioral economic theory to reduce drinking among heavy-drinking college students. Assisted with project startup activities. Managed junior research assistants. Conducted motivational interviewing interventions and assisted with data analysis and presentation development.

The Pediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study (2012 to 2013)—*Research Assistant*. The study is a national longitudinal cohort study, funded by NIH. It investigates the long-term effects of HIV infection and antiretroviral medications in children and young adults who were born with HIV or born exposed to HIV. Administered cognitive (e.g., WASI) assessments to caregivers of children who had been exposed to HIV.

Professional Experience

2016 to date. RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC.

Senior Research Psychologist (2020 to date).

- Secure and Manage ~ \$4 million in research funding and an interdisciplinary team of 24 researchers and project staff (non-direct reports).
- Serve as the Principal Investigator of 3 mixed-methods studies funded by the National Institutes of Health and one privately funded study to develop health-related online user experiences to increase health outcomes for marginalized populations.
- Ensure quality management of all client deliverables
- Co-leads a team of 15 people to implement SSES strategy to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion and present on organizational-level equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging (EDIB) metrics and activities to senior and executive leadership.
- Successfully advocates for and allocate resources to support equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging objectives.
- Recruitment and onboarding of new staff
- Mentors early and mid-career staff, including completing dynamic development activities and monitoring overhead investments
- Lead business development and cross-unit collaboration activities.
- Manage partnerships with community-based organizations in the Atlanta area and represent RTI on community boards and within national organizations related to HIV research and behavioral research.
- Engage with senior leadership of organization to develop and implement business strategy.
- Serve as an affiliate of RTI's Global Gender Center and represent SSES on the RTI EDIB Council.

Research Clinical Psychologist (2016 to 2020).

- Secured more than \$1 million in research funding from the National Institutes of Health.
- Led major collaboration within organization resulting, in a multimillion-dollar contract.
- Contributed to the design and implementation of 5+ National Institutes of Health-funded studies and conducted mixed methods data collection and analysis.
- Established strong partnerships with community-based organizations in the Atlanta area, resulting in ~\$800,00 in research funding.
- Served as an affiliate of RTI's Global Gender Center.

2014 to 2016. Yale School of Public Health's Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA), Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Postdoctoral Researcher.

- Led and collaborated with other researchers to design research protocols
 - Developed publications
 - Analyzed data
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- Submitted grant proposals to NIH to support research studies that examined the associations between sexual risk, mental health diagnoses, substance abuse, and intimate partner violence (IPV), among women experiencing IPV (PI: Dr. Tami P. Sullivan).
- Served on the community research core of CIRA to engage with community partners to conduct research.

2013- 2014. Clinical Internship, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC.

Clinical Intern.

- Conducted evidence-based psychotherapy in the Duke Pain Clinic and Sleep Clinic to treat chronic pain and sleep disorders.
- Conducted cognitive testing among survivors of brain cancer at the Tisch Brain Tumor Center.

2012 to 2013. Department of Psychology, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.

Research Assistant.

- Recruited and consented participants
- Conducted laboratory-based interventions
- Managed data, conducted analyses
- Mentored junior research assistants for an NIH-funded study that evaluated the efficacy of a brief intervention to reduce drinking among heavy-drinking college students.

2009 to 2010, 2011 to 2012. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN.

Research Assistant for Pediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study (2012).

- Administered cognitive (e.g., WASI) assessments to caregivers of children who had been exposed to HIV for the NIH-funded Pediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study.
 - Recruited and consented patients and collected data using audio computer-assisted self-interview technology for a study examining body image among youths living with HIV.
 - Attended interdisciplinary clinical rounds.
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Research Assistant (2011 to 2012).

- Completed medical record reviews, analyzed data, led and contributed to the development of publications, book chapters, and presentations for a study examining rate of human papilloma virus vaccination among female survivors of childhood cancer.

Research Assistant (2009 to 2010).

- Assessed children, adolescents, young adults, and parents for posttraumatic stress disorder, completed medical record reviews, co-authored publication for an NIH-funded clinical trial examining variables predictive of stress, adjustment, and growth among children with cancer and their parents.

Honors and Awards

Highly Cited Author Award, RTI International, 2023

Highly Published Author Award, RTI International, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Early Career Author Award, RTI International, 2017

International Women's and Children's Health and Gender Working Group, Travel Award, 2015

Interdisciplinary HIV Prevention Training Program, Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Institute of Mental Health and Yale School of Public Health, 2014 to 2016

Southern Regional Education Board Dissertation Fellowship, Southern Regional Education Board, 2013 to 2014

First Generation PhD Fellowship, The University of Memphis, 2009 to 2014. A 4-year fellowship awarded to exceptional students who are admitted to doctoral programs at The University of Memphis and are the first person in their immediate family to receive a doctoral degree

Highland Area Renewal Angel Award, the Highland Area Renewal Association, 2011. Awarded for outstanding community service in the Highland neighborhood of Memphis, TN

Presidential Scholarship, Florida A&M University, 2004 to 2008. A 4-year full scholarship awarded to exceptional incoming freshmen students

Professional Associations

Society for Behavioral Medicine

College on Problems of Drug Dependence

Professional Service

International Scientific Committee, *AIDS Impact* 2023

Co-lead, Committee on Diversity and Equity, *RTI International*, 2020 to date

Founding Chair, The Diversity Institute for Emerging Leaders, *Society for Behavioral Medicine*, 2019-2022

Member, Education, Training, and Career Development Council, *Society of Behavioral Medicine*, 2019 to 2021

Co-Chair, The Diversity & Inclusion Committee, *Social, Policy, Health, and Economics Research, RTI International*, 2018 to 2020

Vice Chair of Membership, HIV and Sexual Health SIG, *Society of Behavioral Medicine*, 2018 to 2020
Affiliate, *RTI International Global Gender Center*, 2016 to 2020

HIV/AIDS Topic Chair, *Society of Behavioral Medicine*, 2016 to 2019

Member, Diversity in Leadership Taskforce, *Society of Behavioral Medicine*, 2018

Board Member, Society of the Analysis of African American Issues in Public Health, *American Public Health Association*, 2014 to 2018

Program Planning Committee Member, *36th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine*, 2015 to 2016

Associate Member, *Mental Health, Law, and Policy*, 2010 to 2012

Adjunct Appointments

Adjunct Assistant Professor, The Gillings School of Public Health, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Adjunct Assistant Professor, The Department of Psychology, The University of Memphis

Country Experience

South Africa

Selected Books, Book Chapters, and Monographs

Edwards, C. L., Peasant, C., & Hill, L. K. (2016). AIDS/HIV drugs. In Sarah Boslaugh & Geoffrey J. Golson (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of pharmacology and society*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Trambadia, J., Edwards, C. L., & Peasant, C. (2015). Psychological effects of alcohol. In Scott C. Martin and J. Geoffrey (Eds.). *Alcohol*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Klosky J. L., Foster R. H., Hodges J., Peasant C., Gamble H., McDermott M. J., & Rao, K. P. (2012). Human papillomavirus vaccination and the primary prevention of cancer: Implications for survivors of childhood cancer. In Y. Quintana (Ed.), *Studies in health technology and informatics* (pp. 33–42). IOS Press. Washington, DC. <https://doi.org/10.3233/9781-61499-088-8-33>

Selected Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Bonner, C. P., Minnis, A., Ndirangu, J. W., Browne, F. A., Speizer, I. S., Nyblade, L., Ahmed, K. & Wechsberg, W. M. (in press). The Importance of the Individual in PrEP Uptake: Multilevel Correlates of PrEP Uptake Among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Tshwane, South Africa. *AIDS and Behavior*.

Carney, T., Myers, B., Browne, F.A., Kline, T. **Bonner, C.P.**, Ndirangu, J.W., Wechsberg, W.M. (accepted). Relationship Between Criminal and Status Offense Behaviors, Substance Use, and HIV Risk Among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Cape Town, South Africa. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.

Browne, F. A., Gichane, M. W., Shangase, N., Ndirangu, J., **Bonner, C. P.**, & Wechsberg, W. M. (2023). Social Determinants of Alcohol and Other Drug Misuse Among Women Living with HIV in Economically Underserved Communities in Cape Town, South Africa: A Cross-Sectional Study. *AIDS and Behavior*, 27(4), 1329–1338. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-022-03869-1>

Browne, F. A., **Bonner, C. P.**, Kline, T. L., Cox, E. N., Gichane, M. W., & Wechsberg, W. M. (2022). Alcohol, drug use, and sexual risk among young African American women in North Carolina: is educational attainment protective?. *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, 18(2), 149-155.

Bonner, C. P., Carney, T., Browne, F. A., Ndirangu, J. W., Howard, B. N., & Wechsberg, W. M. (2022). Substance use and depression and anxiety symptoms among out-of-school adolescent girls and young women in Cape Town, South Africa. *South African Medical Journal*.

- Nyblade, L., Ndirangu, J. W., Speizer, I. S., Browne, F. A., **Bonner, C. P.**, Minnis, A., ... & Wechsberg, W. M. (2022). Stigma in the health clinic and implications for PrEP access and use by adolescent girls and young women: conflicting perspectives in South Africa. *BMC Public Health*, 22(1), 1916.
- Bonner, C. P.**, Fisher, C., Carney, T., Browne, F. A., Gichane, M., Howard, B. N., Turner, L. B. M., & Wechsberg, W. M. (2021). “Because all mothers is not the same”: The development and implementation of an in loco parentis informed consent procedure to enroll adolescent girls and young women to participate in HIV research. *Journal of Adolescence*, 93, 234-244. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2021.11.001>
- Bonner, C.P.**, Browne, F., Carney, T., Ndirangu, J., Shangase, N., & Wechsberg, W. (2021). Exploring the association between Mandrax use and HIV risk behaviors among adolescent girls and young women in Cape Town, South Africa. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, 55, S568.
- Myers, B., Browne, F. A., Carney, T., Kline, T., **Bonner, C. P.**, & Wechsberg, W. M. (2021). The association of recurrent and multiple types of abuse with adverse mental health, substance use, and sexual health outcomes among out-of-school adolescent girls and young women in Cape Town, South Africa. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(21). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182111403>
- Peasant, C.**, Montanaro, E. A., Kershaw, T. S., Parra, G. R., Weiss, N. H., Meyer, J. P., ... Sullivan, T. P. (2019). An event-level examination of successful condom negotiation strategies among young women. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 24(7), 898–908. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1359105317690598>
- Willie, T. C., Powell, A., Callands, T., Sipsma, H., **Peasant, C.**, Magriples, U., Alexander, K., & Kershaw, T. (2019). Investigating intimate partner violence victimization and reproductive coercion victimization among young pregnant and parenting couples: A longitudinal study. *Psychology of Violence*, 9(3), 278–287. <https://doi.org/10.1037/vio0000118>
- Browne, F. A., Wechsberg, W. M., Kizakevich, P. N., Zule, W. A., **Peasant, C.**, Madison, A. N., ... Turner, L. B. (2018). mHealth versus face-to-face: Study protocol for a randomized trial to test a gender-focused intervention for young African American women at risk for HIV in North Carolina. *BMC Public Health*, 18(1), 982. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-5796-8>
- Peasant, C.**, Sullivan, T. P., Ritchwood, T. D., Parra, G., Weiss, N. H., Meyer, J. P., & Murphy, J. G. (2018). Words can hurt: The effects of physical and psychological partner violence on condom negotiation and condom use among young women. *Women & Health*, 483–497. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03630242.2017.1316345>
- Peasant, C.**, Montanaro, E. A., Kershaw, T. S., Parra, G. R., Weiss, N. H., Meyer, J. P., ... Sullivan, T. P. (2017). An event-level examination of successful condom negotiation strategies among young women. *Journal of Health Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1359105317690598>
- Ritchwood, T. D., **Peasant, C.**, Powell, T., Taggart, T., Corbie-Smith, G., & Akers, A. (2017). Predictors of caregiver communication about reproductive and sexual health and sensitive sex topics. *Journal of Family Issues*.
- Peasant, C.**, Foster, R. H., Russell, K. M., & Klosky, J. L. (2015). Caregiver sexual communication and HPV recommendation among female survivors of childhood cancer. *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*, 3, 199–208. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1043454215607339>
- Ritchwood, T. D., Penn, D., **Peasant, C.**, Albritton, T., & Corbie-Smith, G. (2015). Condom use self-efficacy among younger rural adolescents: The influence of parent-teen communication, and knowledge of and attitudes toward condoms. *Journal of Early Adolescence*, 37(2), 267–283. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0272431615599065>

Complete List of Publications:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/courtney.peasant.1/bibliography/public/>