
Erica Sappington

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy: Community and Behavioral Sciences (in progress) August 2018-Present
University of South Florida

Master of Arts: Mental Health Counseling August 2015-May 2017
University of South Florida

Bachelor of Science Major: Psychology and Sociology August 2011-May 2015
University of South Florida

HONORS AND AWARDS

University of South Florida Advanced Training Travel Grant August, September 2019
Visited with 1 potential research partner (The Sagol Center for Hyperbaric Medicine) and 1 current research partner (ElMinda) to explore avenues for expanding brain health research for older adults. Participated in hands on analytic training, using advanced techniques with clinical and health outcomes data. Developed field appropriate communication skills with leading industry experts.

Florida High Tech Corridor Excellence in Graduate Research Award May 2018
Recognized for excellence in a student leadership role within partnership with the USF College of Engineering and The Villages Health. The winning project is titled; "Using Technology to Improve Service Delivery and Health Outcomes for Older Adults" and it includes three sub-projects-a study using the Brain Network Activation program to create a big data brain mapping repository using EEG signals, a project using HomeSense, a wireless sensor system, to collect data on activities of daily living, sleep/wake patterns and lifestyle of The Villages residents, and finally the Hospitalist Evaluation sub-project, where data are collected on discharged patients to track post-discharge health outcomes.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Role: Research Coordinator 2020-Current
University of Florida

Coordinator Roles:

Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Lead the development of planning for the study, implementation, and manage day-to-day operations of research programs.
- Translate planning and design decisions into concrete activities and tasks, assign these tasks, and set priorities for their implementation.
- Ensure proper communication among stakeholders, staff, study sponsors, and investigators, to coordinate the assigned directives and accomplish deliverables.
- Monitor progress, identify and resolve barriers to progress, and work with project leadership to make any necessary adjustments to scope, timeline, and/or budget.
- Responsible for preparation of reports, manuscripts, and grant proposals including performing literature searches, creating cohesive literature summaries, creating figures, formatting references, and creating budget justifications.

Role: Mulberry Site Supervisor/Program Coordinator**2019-2022**

Using Sensor Data to Increase Understanding of Aging Brains ~ Reference Database & Longitudinal Registry of the Normal and Pathological Aging Brain: Brain Network Activation Analysis for the Adult and Elderly Population Using Evoked Potentials.

Total Project Support: \$1,039,558

Clinical Trials.gov identifier [NCT02875496](#)

Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd, J. Lowenkron, & A Yalcin

Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Development in the planning, implementation, and management of day-to-day operations in multi-center studies
- Translate planning and design decisions into concrete activities and tasks, assign tasks, and set implementation strategies
- Ensure communication with stakeholders, staff, study sponsors, and investigators to accomplish deliverables
- Lead the progress of work conducted by external vendors/sponsors and assist in managing study finances

Role: Mulberry Site Supervisor/Program Coordinator**2016-2019**

Using Sensor Data to Increase Understanding of Aging Brains ~ Reference Database & Longitudinal Registry of the Normal and Pathological Aging Brain: Brain Network Activation Analysis for the Adult and Elderly Population Using Evoked Potentials.

Total Project Support: \$995,701, Clinical Trials.gov identifier [NCT02875496](#)

Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd, J. Lowenkron, & A Yalcin

Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Monitor, identify, and resolve barriers to progress and work with leadership to adjust study scope, timeline, and budget
- Support and prepare for external audits with sponsor, FDA, and NIH
- Coordinated data collection activities including conducting interviews, survey creation, create/maintain project timelines/budgets, recruitment, and data analysis
- Prepared reports, manuscripts, creating cohesive literature summaries, and create budget justifications
- Maintained project compliance with regulations including creating/renewing IRB protocols, data use agreements, and human subjects' payments

Role: Project Coordinator**2019-2020**

Florida High Tech Corridor (HTC) Matching Grant Program. Innovation in Late Life: Understanding older adults' preferences, decision making, and baseline in adopting novel wellness technologies.

Partner: XTend, LLC

Total Project Support: \$470,000

Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd, J. Lowenkron, & A Yalcin

Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Implemented federal and University guidelines, identify and document all protocol required devices
- Lead all audit responsibilities and monitored the progress of each research trial, identify problems, propose modifications, and implement modifications
- Oversight of students and staff to ensure daily tasks are complete and project timelines are communicated
- Data analysis and reporting of qualitative and quantitative health data

Role: Project Coordinator**2019-2020**

USDA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant Program. Activities of Living, Engagement and Reporting Technology (ALERT)

Partner: CREATEAbility Concepts

Total Project Support: \$100,000

Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd, A. Yalcin, S. Sutter, M. Dauito, L. King

Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Maintained all records and files required by regulatory agencies and sponsors
- Coordinate with leadership, faculty, and research staff to minimize delays and exceed deadlines
- Develop and analyze clinical research activities for participants and make necessary changes
- Oversee the education, training, and consultation to the community, faculty members, and research team

Role: Research Assistant and Community Outreach Lead

2015-2018

Sensor-Based, Response-Oriented Technology for In-Home Monitoring of Senior Health & Well Being.

Total Project Support: \$449,997.

Principal Investigators: C. VandeWeerd & A. Yalcin

Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Supervise research support staff engaged in carrying out of research and clinical protocol
- Responsible for assisting in the interpretation and implementation of procedures
- Directs the clinical research operations in administrative and fiscal matters, preparing analysis
- Creates and finalizes final data reporting materials (i.e. manuscripts, journal articles, data reports)

Role: Research Assistant

2015- 2017

SIDI Research Study, ACTS, Inc

Total Project Support: \$3,113,437.00

Principal Investigator: M. Bornovalova

Research Assistant Responsibilities:

- Coordinated activities administered by the research program or service area
- Manage resources of assigned clinical research areas to accomplish research goals and objectives
- Supervise support staff engaged in carrying out research and clinical protocol

Role: Research Assistant

2012- 2013

MyLife Research Lab, USF

Principal Investigator: J. Thompson

Research Assistant Responsibilities:

- Interviewed parent and student participants for five year substance abuse longitudinal research study
- Site preparation for incoming research participants and audit screening data
- Trained research assistants on interviewing participants, following protocol and confidentiality
- Recorded participant adverse events by following flagged protocol

Role: Research Assistant

2012- 2013

Mood and Emotion Lab, USF

Principal Investigator: J. Rottenberg

Research Assistant Responsibilities:

- Went through 6 months of facial coding training on the FACS system
- Responsible for ensuring all programs and activities comply with university, state and federal regulations
- Retrieved and filed archival documents
- Served on the management team with the research director

Role: Research Assistant

2012- 2012

Aging Lab, USF

Principal Investigator: J. Edwards

Research Assistant Responsibilities:

- Responsible for maintaining an inclusive working environment
- Supervised day-to-day operations of assigned areas and provided guidance to staff involved
- Participates in formulating and implementing policies and procedures
- Established performance goals and measures to evaluate success of assigned area of responsibility

Role: Research Assistant**2013- 2012**

BIRG Body Image Lab, USF

Principal Investigator: K. Thompson

Research Assistant Responsibilities:

- Confer with investigators and administrators to ensure changes or corrections are made
- Review proposals for compliance with sponsor and University terms and rules
- Monitor final reporting requirements
- Provide technical assistance to PI and other research staff

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Design, implementation, analysis, and dissemination of pre/posttest health outcomes
- Consulting with industry partners and consecutive management of multiple projects
- Data analysis using research related software (SPSS, Endnote, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office Suite)
- Dissemination activities (manuscripts, conference abstracts, presentations)
- Brain Network Activation (BNA) technologist
- Quality control of data and adherence to clinical trial regulatory protocols

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Salmons, C., Roberts, M., **Sappington, E.**, Yalcin, A. & VandeWeerd, C. (submitted). Innovative Behavioral Health Programs for Older Adults: Findings from Body Movement Therapy in Older Adults Experiencing Anxiety and Depression. *American Journal of Nursing*.

Roberts, M., Kehat, O., Gross, M., Lasri, N., Issachar, G., **Sappington, E.**, VandeWeerd, C., Peremen, Z., Geva., Translating the Relation Between Quality of Life and Memory Using a Novel EEG Technology. Poster presented at the 72nd Annual Scientific Meeting of The Gerontological Society of America Meeting, Austin Texas, November 2019.

C., VandeWeerd, M. Roberts, **E. Sappington**, A. Fiscella, A. Yalcin, J. Lowenkron, J. Castaldo; O. Kehat, G. Issachar, Z. Peremen, & A. Geva. Evaluating Brain Health: Early Findings on the Utility of a Novel Technology to Assess Brain Health in Late Life. In Press. *Winner of the 2018 Erickson Foundation Award for Excellence in Aging Research, American Public Health Association. San Diego, California, September 2018.

M. Roberts, **E. Sappington**, J. Lowenkron C. VandeWeerd, A.Yalcin, D. L. Roth Understanding Advance Care Planning in an Active Lifestyle Retirement Community. Poster presented at the 71st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of American, Boston, MA, November, 2018.

M. Roberts, C. VandeWeerd, D. L Roth, **E. Sappington**, S. Alluri, , A. Yalcin, J. Lowenkron Insights on Caregiving in The Villages, FL: Findings from Caregivers Participating in a Brain Health Clinical Trial. Presented at the 71st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of American, Boston, MA, November, 2018.

C., VandeWeerd, M. Roberts, **E. Sappington**, A. Fiscella, A. Yalcin, J. Lowenkron, J. Castaldo; O. Kehat, G. Issachar, Z. Peremen, & A. Geva. Evaluating Brain Health: Early Findings on the Utility of a Novel Technology to Assess Brain Health in Late Life. Presented at the American Public Health Association conference San Diego, California, September 2018

M. Roberts, C. VandeWeerd, J. Lowenkron, A. Yalcin, **E. Sappington**. Evaluating Older Adults Brain Health: Preliminary Results from a Clinical Trial Using Novel EEG Gerontechnology. Paper presented at the 11th World Conference of Gerontechnology, St. Petersburg, Florida. May 2018

VandeWeerd, C, Lent, K., Agu, N., **Sappington, E.**, Roberts, M., Behzadnia, P., & Yalcin, A. Assessing Older Adults' Socio Behavioral Health Using Electronic Health Record Data. Poster presented at the 69Th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of American, New Orleans, LA, November, 2016.

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

Roberts, Mitchell, **Sappington, Erica**, Gross, Michaela, VandeWeerd, Carla. The Effects of Short-Term Dance/Movement Therapy on Improving Subjective Quality of Life, Sleep, Depression, and Anxiety Measures in Older Adult Women.

Roberts, Mitchell, **Sappington, Erica**, Gross, Michaela, VandeWeerd, Carla. Investigating the Impact of Short-Term Behavioral Therapy on Measures of Depression, Anxiety, and Quality of Life in an Integrated Care Model

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/MEETINGS

Gerontological Society of America	2015-Present
Florida Council on Aging	2015-Present
Reviewer in Training- Journal of Gerontology	2016-Present
American Public Health Association	2018-Present
International Society for Gerontechnology	2018-Present