



WHAT WE DO

The mission of the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy topical interest network is to create a community of Systemic Family Therapy researchers through online networking and research conferences, and to disseminate research findings to therapists, policy makers, and the public in order to inform policy related to healthcare and mental healthcare.

JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENT

The 5th Annual Conference of the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Topical Research Network, themed "Persisting with Purpose: Building and Sustaining Systemic Research in an Uncertain Landscape," will be held at Ohio State University on September 4–5, 2025. More details, including the proposal submission guidelines and link, can be found later in this newsletter.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Greetings friends and colleagues! It is my distinct honor to be taking the baton after Adrian, Rick, and Lenore's amazing leadership. I am grateful for the foundation, priorities, and relationships they established for our TIN. I am also humbled to work alongside existing and new TIN leaders: Rick Miller (past president), Amber Vennum (president elect), Kayla Fitzke (treasurer), Mona Mittal (secretary), Chi-Fang Tseng (outreach and engagement coordinator), and Janette Driscoll (student and new professional representative). I would be remiss if I didn't thank our AAMFT friends: Chris Michaels, Melanie Gibson, Dawn Berry, and other AAMFT staff for their collaboration and support in planning and executing the 2024 and 2025 conferences.

Thank you to all who were able to join our TIN's track at the 2024 Systemic Family Therapy Conference in Orlando. We were able to offer over 80 workshops, paper sessions, and posters! We are hoping to extend the momentum for systemic family therapy research training, collaboration, and innovation into our fall conference program at the Ohio State University this September 4-5, 2025.

The theme is *Persisting with Purpose: Building and Sustaining Systemic Research in an Uncertain Landscape*. Our leadership team, in partnership with AAMFT, are excited to provide our TIN community with a high-quality and contextually relevant program on building and sustaining systemic family therapy research in this changing landscape. As scholars and trainers, we are tasked with pivoting, adapting, and showing resilience in building and sustaining research in the current landscape. It is our hope that we can come together as a systemic family therapy research community to support one another, learn from our success and challenges, and create a plan to advance the important, meaningful research we are doing.

This year we are bringing back some of the original networking opportunities available at past AAMFT conferences, including (a) program showcase for prospective students and job applicants, (b) student and new professional mentorship workshop, (c) poster session and reception, (d) JMFT Editorial Board meeting and breakfast, and (e) faculty think-tank around research training and instruction in our field.

On a personal note, there are a million reasons I am overjoyed to welcome each and every one of you to Ohio this fall. Having our community of clinical scholars and trainers come together in my back yard (quite literally on Wednesday evening before the conference) may be one of the greatest honors and highlights of my career. Our conference theme for 2025 has become a bit of a mantra that I replay in my head for motivation and inspiration. I hope that the program we are putting together will provide the same motivation and inspiration for you as we persist forward, together, to continue our important research and training. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or comments that you may have about the upcoming conference.

Persisting with Purpose, Keeley



MEET OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Chair
Keeley Pratt, PhD
(she/her)



Chair Elect
Amber Vennum, PhD
(she/they)



Coordinator of Outreach and Engagement
Chi-Fang Tseng, PhD
(she/her)



Student and New Professional Representative
Janette Driscoll
(she/her)



Treasurer
Kayla Reed Fitzke, PhD
(she/her)



Secretary
Mona Mittal, PhD
(she/her)



Past Chair
Adrian J. Blow PhD
(he/him)



Past Chair
Rick Miller, PhD
(he/him)



Past Chair-Elect
Lenore McWay, PhD
(she/her)



Meet our newly elected officer: Kayla Reed Fitzke, PhD

- **Pronouns:** She/her
- **Current position:** Assistant Professor and Program Director in the Medical Family Therapy PhD Program at East Carolina University
- **Current position in the Intervention Research TIN:** Treasurer
- **Research interests:** The promotion of health during emerging adulthood; intersections of risk and resilience (particularly in regard to relationships); military families; college students at-risk for adverse behavioral health
- **What motivates you to contribute to the leadership of this community:** I think the TIN is critical for not only advancing the work that we do as systemic therapy researchers, but also for keeping the community of scholars connected and supported as we navigate the various challenges our field is facing. I also believe it is vital for students to have a space to get engaged in research and have exposure to a supportive research community, especially at a time when other opportunities are lacking. My favorite spaces are where I get to spend time learning alongside amazing humans who are passionate about similar things – which pretty much sums up this TIN! I want to do my small part in keeping the momentum of this community going.

Meet our newly elected officer: Mona Mittal, PhD

- **Pronouns:** She/her
- **Current position:** Associate Professor, Department of Family Science, University of Maryland
- **Current position in the Intervention Research TIN:** Secretary
- **Research interests:** Trauma exposures, Intimate partner violence, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, prevention and intervention research
- **What motivates you to contribute to the leadership of this community:** As a clinical researcher specializing in trauma, relational well-being, and health outcomes, I am deeply invested in advancing systemic research that informs clinical practice and policy. TIN's dedication to fostering a collaborative research community, disseminating knowledge to therapists and policymakers, and promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion resonates with my work. As part of the leadership team, I hope to contribute to the field's growth by amplifying diverse voices and perspectives.

2024 AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Advocate Award

This award honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional support and dedication to the growth and advancement of TIN.

Recipient:
Christine
Michaels,
AAMFT CEO



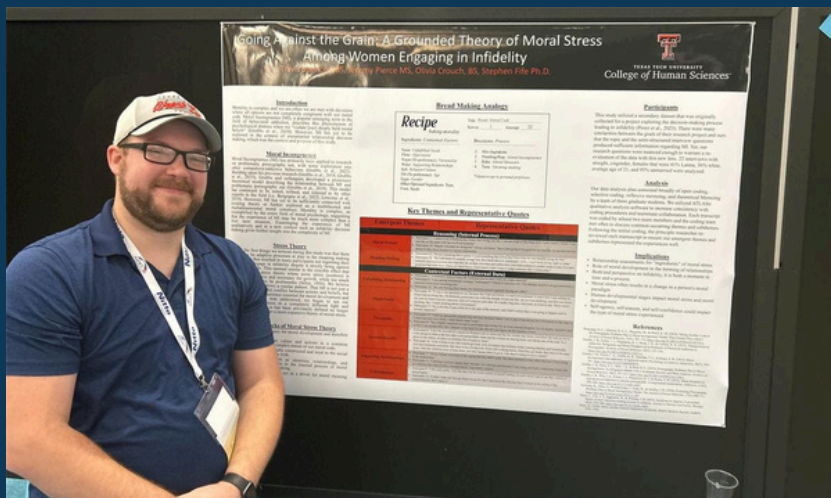
Karen Wampler Outstanding Research Mentor Award

This award honors a prolific research mentor of C/MFT students. The award will be presented every other year at the TIN conference.

2024 Recipient:
Elizabeth
Wieling, Ph.D.



Student Poster Award



2024 Recipients:
Travis Spencer, in collaboration with
colleagues Jeremy Pierce, Olivia Crouch,
and Stephen Fife. Their poster titled,
Going Against the Grain: A Grounded
Theory of Moral Stress Among Women
Engaging in Infidelity

The Student Poster Award recognizes outstanding research presented by a student at the poster session at the annual TIN conference. Each year, posters are evaluated for their innovation, methodological rigor, and contribution to the field of systemic family therapy. The recipient will be selected based on the quality of their research and presentation, and awarded during the conference.

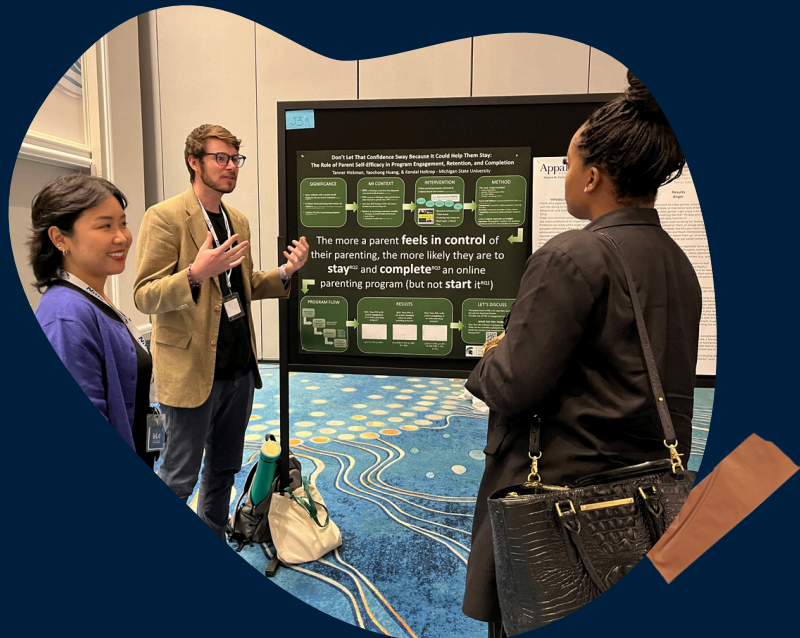
Conference Photo Highlights-2024

Our 4th Annual Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Conference 2024 was held in conjunction with the AAMFT Systemic Family Therapy Conference in Orlando, Florida, from November 4-7, 2024. This year's theme was "Translating Research into Advocacy." We were thrilled to offer 4 research workshops, 16 paper presentations, and 65 poster presentations.

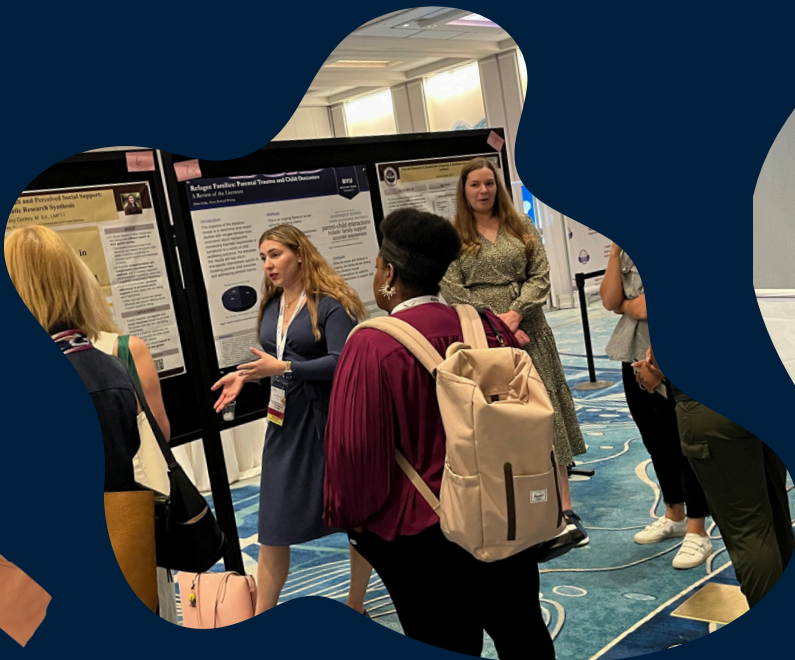
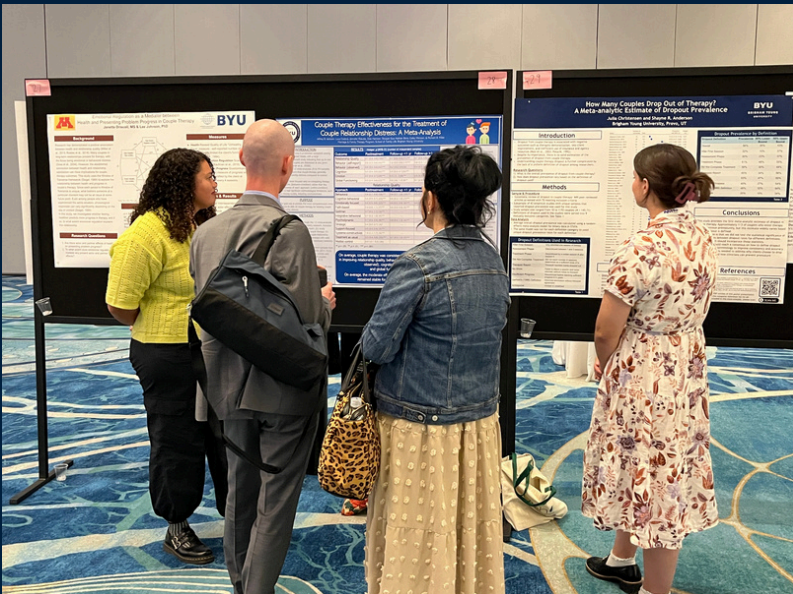
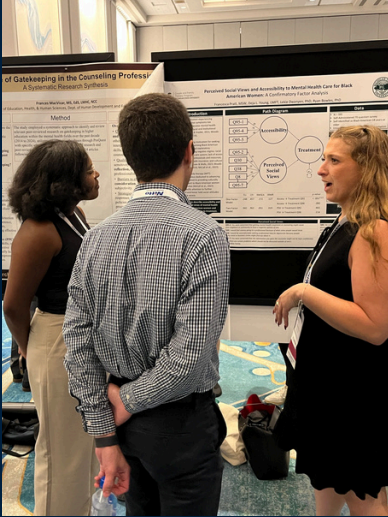
Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this conference a success!



Conference Photo Highlights-2024



Conference Photo Highlights-2024



Conference Photo Highlights-2024



Conference Photo Highlights-2024



JOURNAL OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY NEWS

We're thrilled to share updates and highlight trending research published in Journal of Marital and Family Therapy (JMFT)!

 **New Feature Alert: The JMFT homepage now includes Altmetric data that features trending JMFT articles. Check it out.**

 **Celebrating Impact: Authors of JMFT papers are making an impact. We are excited to introduce the most viewed and most highly cited JMFT publication in 2024:**

JMFT Most Viewed Article in 2024



JMFT Most Cited Article in 2024

Received: 8 November 2021 | Accepted: 9 January 2023
DOI: 10.1111/jmft.12632

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Addressing intergenerational trauma in Black families: Trauma-informed socioculturally attuned family therapy

Aiesha T. Lee PhD¹  | Philippa Chin MA²  |
Aishwarya Nambiar MA² | Natoya Hill Haskins PhD³

¹Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, USA

²Department of School Psychology and Counselor Education, William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA

³Department of Human Services, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA

Correspondence

Aiesha T. Lee, PhD, Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA.
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Abstract

Increased attention to the prevalence and impact of traumatic experiences have been highlighted within the mental health field since Felitti et al.'s study of adverse childhood experiences. Black communities experience traumatic events at a higher rate than other racial groups. The phenomena of historical trauma, race-based trauma, and intergenerational trauma have been speculated to be reasons for this discrepancy. In this article, the authors explore factors that compound the traumatic experiences of Black communities, review socioculturally attuned family therapy and trauma-informed care, and propose an approach to addressing intergenerational trauma in Black families that integrates socioculturally attuned family therapy and trauma-informed care.

Lee, A. T., Chin, P., Nambiar, A., & Hill Haskins, N. (2023). Addressing intergenerational trauma in Black families: Trauma-informed socioculturally attuned family therapy. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 49(2), 447–462.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jmft.12632>



Journal of Marital and Family Therapy 44(4): 606–623
doi: 10.1111/jmft.12282

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THE ROLE OF SEXUAL COMMUNICATION IN COUPLES' SEXUAL OUTCOMES: A DYADIC PATH ANALYSIS

Adam C. Jones, W. David Robinson, and Ryan B. Seedall
Utah State University

In a study of 142 couples, we gathered survey data to show how sexual communication influences sexual and relationship satisfaction as well as sexual and orgasm frequency. In two dyadic data path analyses, we observed the significant paths of influence that sexual communication has on sexual and relationship satisfaction, as well as sexual and orgasm frequency. Our findings revealed greater amounts of sexual communication were associated with increased orgasm frequency in women and greater relationship and sexual satisfaction in both sexes. We also observed important differences in the associations of sexual communication and general communication on satisfaction levels. With these analyses, we expand the current literature to broaden our understanding of the role that sexual communication plays in committed relationships.

Jones, A. C., Robinson, W. D., & Seedall, R. B. (2018). The role of sexual communication in couples' sexual outcomes: A dyadic path analysis. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 44(4), 606–623.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jmft.12282>

If you are interested in serving as an ad hoc reviewer for JMFT, please email cehhs-jmft@fsu.edu and include a brief list of your areas of expertise.



INTERVENTION RESEARCH IN SYSTEMIC FAMILY THERAPY TOPICAL RESEARCH NETWORK 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Location: The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Date: September 4-5, 2025

The theme for the 2025 conference is *Persisting with Purpose: Building and Sustaining Systemic Research in an Uncertain Landscape*. The program will include plenaries and a combination of panels, workshops, paper, and poster sessions that fit under the broader theme.

Abstract Submission Guideline

Your Submissions Should Fall Within The Following Three Themes:

1. The Science and Practice of Teaching Systemic Family Therapy Research. Submissions may include advances and unique research instruction strategies, keeping up to date on new methods and analysis, approaches to training grant and policy writing, etc.

2. Building and Sustaining Engaged Research. Submissions may include methods for building partnerships in communities, translating research to support systems and families in the community, adapting to and navigating challenges in the current climate, etc.

3. Building and Sustaining Effectiveness and Outcome Research. Submissions may include cutting edge interventions or clinical research in systemic therapy, how researchers are pivoting in the current climate, funding landscape, and important research questions to ask that address current issues and policies, etc.

- **Submit a 300-word abstract for a seminar/workshop, brief paper presentation, and/or poster.**
- **Abstracts for seminars and workshops should identify which topical area the submission fits under (1-3) and include: (a) session objective, (b) description, (c) 3-5 learning objectives.**
 - The Lead presenter will need to upload their CV. Presenters are expected to facilitate for 1 hour.
- **Abstracts for both paper and poster presentations should include: (a) relevant background and objectives, (b) methods, including a description of the sample and measures, and analyses, (c) results, and (d) conclusion and clinical research/policy implications.**
 - Abstracts of studies with completed results are encouraged, but abstracts with incomplete results are also welcome, with the requirement that the study will be completed by the time of the conference.
 - For the paper presentations, we will gather 3-4 papers centered around a common theme to form a paper session. Each presentation is expected to be 12 minutes long.
 - Papers and posters may address any clinical research topic and are not limited to the topical areas that are related to the conference theme.

Abstract Submission Guideline

WHERE TO SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT:

Submit your abstract at:

<https://www.abstractscorecard.com/cfp/submit/login.asp?EventKey=DKJPIVHQ>

You will be prompted to create a login with cadmium where you will submit all required elements. Correspondence about acceptances will be sent out from this system.

Review Timeline: The portal for submitting abstracts will be open from April 1 through May 11. Decisions about the acceptance of abstracts will be communicated via email by June 14.

Questions? You may reach out to Keeley Pratt (pratt.192@osu.edu) or any member of the leadership team.

Conference Details

LOCATION:

- The Ohio State University Union (1739 N High St, Columbus, OH 43210)

LODGING:

- The Blackwell Inn (on campus; 2110 Tuttle Park Place, Columbus, OH 43210)
- Guest rooms are available for \$179 plus tax (one king or two queen beds) or \$229 plus tax (loft king room) per night.
- Please utilize the booking link: [OSU Human Sciences-Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy](#) or you may phone 866-247-4003 and ask for the OSU Human Sciences-2025 Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Conference room block utilizing group booking code: IRSFTSEPT25.
- Reservation requests must be made no later than Monday, August 4, 2025. If you are requesting a reservation after this date, please contact the hotel directly for availability; toll free 866-247-4003.
- There is a parking garage next to the hotel for attendees traveling by vehicle (\$15.25/day).

TRAVEL:

- Attendees should fly into John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH). Ride share services and taxis are available from CMH to the Blackwell Inn.

CONFERENCE RATE:

- Early Bird Rate prior to 8/15:
 - \$25 students; \$150 AAMFT members; \$200 non-members.
- After 8/15:
 - \$50 students; \$200 AAMFT members; and \$250 non-members.

OVERVIEW OF CONFERENCE AGENDA

September 3 (Wednesday) No CEUs

- 5:00-8:00pm: Informal networking mixer at Keeley Pratt's house. Snacks and appetizers will be served. Shuttles available from the Blackwell Hotel to Keeley's house and for the return.

September 4 (Thursday) 7 CEUs

- 8:00-9:00am: Continental breakfast (Union)
- 9:00-10:15am: Plenary I
- 10:30-11:30am: Panel I
- 11:45-1:00pm: Lunch and PhD Program Showcase; **Email Keeley Pratt (pratt.192@osu.edu) to RSVP.**
- 1:00-2:00pm: Plenary II
- 2:15-3:15pm: Concurrent Seminars/Workshops (will include Student/New Professional Job Market and Faculty Research Training Think Tank)
- 3:30-4:30pm: Concurrent Workshops/Seminars/Paper Sessions
- 4:30-6:00pm: Poster session and reception
- 6:00pm: Dinner on own (will supply a list of recommended restaurants)

September 5 (Friday) 5 CEUs

- 8:00-9:00am: Continental breakfast and JMFT Editorial Board Meeting and breakfast (Union)
- 9:00-10:15am: Plenary III
- 10:30-11:30am: Panel II
- 11:45-12:45pm: Lunch and networking on own or in groups
 - Student/New Professional lunch; **Email Janette Driscoll (drisc262@umn.edu) to RSVP.**
 - Faculty Research Training Think Tank Lunch
- 12:45-1:30pm: Concurrent Workshops/Seminars/Paper Sessions
- 1:45-2:45pm: Concurrent Workshops/Seminars/Paper Sessions
- 3:00-4:00pm: Concurrent Workshops/Seminars/Paper Sessions
- 4:00 Depart



Announcement from our Student and New Professional Representative Janette Driscoll:

Are you a graduate student or an early-career clinical scholar looking to connect, learn, and share your work? We invite you to join us at this year's TIN Conference in Ohio! The Students & New Professionals Committee is organizing networking opportunities, including an informal Student/New Professional lunch gathering and a student-focused workshop session where you can connect with peers and experienced scholars. Back by popular demand, the student poster competition is a chance to present your research, receive feedback, and learn from others in the field. Beyond the conference, we are working to support students year-round through professional development and collaboration with peers doing similar work. Stay tuned for more ways to develop your research and contribute to the field!

GENERAL FEEDBACK?

We value your input! Whether you have ideas for future content, feedback on previous issues, or any other thoughts, we would love to hear from you. Your feedback helps us improve and better serve our community!

FEEDBACK?

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

DO YOU WANT YOUR RESEARCH TO BE FEATURED IN AN UPCOMING ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER?

We are excited to spotlight the incredible work being done by our community! Each newsletter will feature two research highlights—one focused on graduate student research and another on faculty research. If you would like to submit your work for consideration, please contact Chi-Fang Tseng, PhD (tsengch5@msu.edu)!

About This Newsletter:

Published quarterly, this newsletter features news, information, and events from our Intervention Research Network. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Chi-Fang Tseng, PhD (tsengch5@msu.edu), Newsletter Editor and Coordinator of Outreach and Engagement.

Interested in joining our Intervention Research Network? How To Join?

During your join or renewal process:
Select the program to add to your membership through the online application (<https://www.aamft.org/join>)

Mid-renewal cycle:
Select a program to add to your membership. Questions? Call AAMFT at 703-838-9808 or email central@aamft.org.