

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME O'Connor, Mary-Frances		POSITION TITLE	
eRA COMMONS USER NAME		Assistant Professor	
EDUCATION/TRAINING <i>(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, and include postdoctoral training.)</i>			
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL	B.A.	June, 1996	Psychology
Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ	M.A.	May, 2000	Clinical Psychology
Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ	Ph.D.	May, 2004	Clinical Psychology
University of California, Los Angeles, L.A., CA	Post-doctoral Fellowship	2004-2006	Psychoneuro- immunology

A. Research and Professional ExperienceEmployment

- 1998-2004 Research/Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, Department Chair: Alfred W. Kaszniak, Ph.D., full-time
- 2003-2004 Clinical Psychology Internship (Health Track), Department of Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital, University of California, Los Angeles, California, Supervisor: David K. Wellisch, Ph.D., full-time
- 2004-2007 Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital, University of California, Los Angeles, California, Center Director: Michael Irwin, M.D., full-time
- 2007- Assistant Professor, Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, California

Honors

- Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) Richard Kalish Graduate Paper Award (2001)
- Changing Lives of Couples (CLOC) Data Workshop Invitation, University of Michigan, Scholarship Awardee (2002)
- NIH Loan Repayment Program Award (2005)
- UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience Research Fellow (2006-07)

B. Publications (in chronological order)

- Weber, J.T., O'Connor, M.-F., Hayataka, K., Colson, N., Medora, R., Russo, E.B., & Parker, K.K. (1997). Activity of parthenolide at 5-HT_{2A} receptors. *Journal of Natural Products*, *60*, 651-653.
- Weber, J.T., Hayataka, K., O'Connor, M.-F., and Parker, K.K. (1997). Rabbit cerebral cortex 5HT_{1a} receptors. *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology*, *117C*, 19-24.
- Hayataka, K., O'Connor, M.-F., Kinzler, N., Weber, J.T., & Parker, K.K. (1998). A bioactive peptide form the transmembrane 5-intracellular loop 3 region of the human 5-HT_{1A} receptor. *Biochemistry and Cell Biology*, *76*, 657-660.
- O'Connor, M.-F., Allen, J.J.B., & Kaszniak, A.W. (2002). Autonomic and emotion regulation in bereavement and depression. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, *52*, 183-185.
- O'Connor, M.-F. (2002). Making meaning of life events: Theory, evidence and research directions for an alternative model. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, *46*, 56-75.
- Gündel, H., O'Connor, M.-F., Littrell, L., Fort, C., & Lane, R. (2003). Functional neuroanatomy of grief: An fMRI study. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, *160*, 1946-1953.
- O'Connor, M.-F. (2004). Finding boundaries inside prison walls: Case study of a terminally ill inmate. *Death Studies*, *28*, 63-76.
- O'Connor, M.F., Allen, J.J.B., & Kaszniak, A.W. (2005). Emotional disclosure for whom? The role of vagal tone in bereavement. *Biological Psychology*, *68*, 135-146.
- O'Connor, M.F. (2005). Bereavement and the brain: Invitation to a conversation between bereavement researchers and neuroscientists. *Death Studies*, *29*, 905-922.
- O'Connor, M., Irwin, M., Seldon, J., Kwan, L., Ganz, P., 2007. Pro-inflammatory cytokines and depression in a familial cancer registry. *Psycho-Oncology*, *16*, 499-501.
- O'Connor, M.F., Gundel, H., McRae, K., Lane, R.D., 2007. Baseline vagal tone predicts BOLD response during elicitation of grief. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, *32*, 2184-2189.
- O'Connor, M.-F., Motivala, S.J., Valladares, E.M., Olmstead, R., Irwin, M.R., 2007. Sex differences in monocyte expression of IL-6: role of autonomic mechanisms. *American Journal of Physiology: Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology*, *293*, R145-151.
- O'Connor, M.F., Wellisch, D.K., Stanton, A.L., Eisenberger, N.I., Irwin, M.R., Lieberman, M.D., 2008. Craving love? Enduring grief activates brain's reward center. *Neuroimage*, *42*, 969-972.

C. Research Support**Active Support**

K01 AG028404 M-F O'Connor (PI) 07/01/07-06/30/12
 NIH-NIA \$107,750
 Complicated Grief in Older Adults: Physiological Substrates of Emotion Regulation
 This project examines the neurobiological underpinnings of traumatic grief in older adults.
 Role: Principal Investigator

Completed

OAIC Rapid Award 01/01/08-06/30/08
 from P60 AG10415 D. Reuben (PI)
 NIH-NIA \$10,000
 UCLA Older Americans Independence Center
 The goal of this study is to determine how serum/plasma biomarker data generated from enzyme-linked

immunosorbent assays (ELISA) compare to the data generated by multiplex technologies.

Role: Principal Investigator

10IB-0048 (Wellisch)

7/01/04-12/31/05

UC/Breast Cancer Research Program

\$100,000

“Psychobiological Concomitants of the Grief Response in Women at High Risk for Breast Cancer”

This project evaluates complicated grief as a psychobiological factor in women at high risk for breast cancer, utilizing diagnostic interviews, cortisol sampling and functional brain imaging.

Role: Co-PI