

Post-traumatic growth subsequent to diagnosis and treatment of cancer

Every Term

Supervising Faculty

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Contact

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Area of Research

Behavioral Medicine

Description

Psychologists most often study the negative effects of traumatic events such as natural disasters, accidents, and terminal illnesses. Research in the areas of resilience or post-traumatic growth focuses on factors that facilitate recovery (psychiatric and health-related) from negative life events. The present study will focus on understanding the (1) positive changes that occur in emotions, attitudes, and behaviors subsequent to a diagnosis of cancer, (2) to understand who experiences these positive changes as it is expected that not every individual experiences post-traumatic growth subsequent to a diagnosis of cancer, (3) understand if the factors related to positive changes are related to stable personality traits or unstable coping strategies, (4) to understand possible mediating factors in the development of positive outcomes to cancer (e.g., social support), and (5) to attempt to understand if these positive affect health or psychological outcomes associated with post-traumatic growth.

Duties of Students

Students have the opportunity to become involved in the project at all levels. The project is at an early phase. Duties will include literature review and recruitment of participants, and at the later phases interviews with patients, data coding, and data entry. Students will have the opportunity to be involved in a research team including other students who will meet on a weekly basis to discuss timely issues related to psychology, the projects they are involved in, as well as have meetings aimed to promote their own education and/or careers in psychology (e.g., seminars on how to apply for graduate school, readings and discussions, ethical issues associated with research).

Requirements

- Grade point average of 3.0 or higher

- At least 12 credits in psychology
- Person who is dependable, responsible, and willing to learn

Number of Students

Open