**Sarah F. Kurker, MSW, LICSW**

**Sarah.Kurker@asu.edu**

Current Experience:

**Full Time Faculty, Instructor**, Arizona State University, School of Social Work,

**Social Work Group Facilitator,** Oncology Teen and Young Adult Support Group Facilitator, Ronald McDonald House, Tucson, Arizona. Courtney’s Courage and Candlelighters of Southern Arizona.

Clinical Training, Bright Ideas, National Cancer Institute. 2018.

**Fitness Instructor and personal trainer**. Miraval. Bringing health to individuals and groups.

**Publications**

Books:

Chapter Submission, Oncology Social Work, Social Workers’ Desk Reference, 4th edition, Oxford Publishing. Printed Fall 2021.

**Kurker, Sarah F. (2021)** Effective Group Therapies for Young Adults Affected by Cancer   
Using Support Groups in Clinical Settings in the US**. Routledge.**

By families for families: your child, your family, and pediatric bone marrow transplantation / Sarah Frances Kurker, 2007

Journals:

[***Children and Youth Services Review***](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01907409)[*Volume 116*](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01907409/116/supp/C)*, September 2020, 105165****, Primary victims of the Sandy Hook Murders: “I usually cry when I say 26”*** *This paper is dedicated to each of them. Author links open overlay panel*[*JoanneCacciatorea*](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740920304886?via%3Dihub#!)***,*** [*Sarah F.Kurkerb*](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740920304886?via%3Dihub#!)***,*** *School of Social Work, United States****,*** *Arizona State University, School of Social Work, United States****,*** *Received 28 March 2020, Revised 9 June 2020, Accepted 9 June 2020, Available online 13 June 2020.* [*https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740920304886?via%3Dihub*](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740920304886?via%3Dihub)

Cacciatore, J., Blood, C., & **Kurker, S**. (2019). Volunteering, meaning, and posttraumatic growth. *Crisis, Illness, and Loss.*

**Kurker, SF,** Major, J, Lopez, AML. “A Case Study: Counseling with a Sibling of a Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Patient” *Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Worker Update.* Vol.27 (4) Fall 2002

Shapiro, S.L, Lopez, A. M**.,** Schwartz, G. E. R., Bootzin, R. Firueredo, A., Braden, C. J., **Kurker, S.F.** “Quality of Life and Breast Cancer: Relationship to Psychosocial Variables” *Journal of Clinical Psychology.* Vol. 57 (4), 501-519. 2001.

Past Experience:

**Field Liaison,** Arizona State University School of Social Work, Serve as a connection from the school to community agencies. Follow contract and evaluation guidelines representing ASU. 2009 to 2015.

**Faculty Associate**, ASU Masters of Social Work Online School: Program Development of Medical Social Work Course. Syllabus review, interviews and assignment development. Collecting data for medical social work book.

**Counseling Facilitator Health Educator.** Girl’s Together Program, 2014 to 2015

* Work with elementary -aged girls and boys promoting self-confidence, problem solving and awareness of pressure.
* Based on Go Girrls Program.
* Pilot focus groups for Kids Clubs.
* Develop curriculum for this age group social skills training.

**Faculty Associate,** Arizona State University School of Social Work. Human Behavior in the Social Environment and Social Work Interventions. Tucson, Arizona. 2005 to 2015.

**Oncology Social Worker,** Arizona Cancer Center University Medical Center, Tucson Arizona. August 2004-2005.

Counseling patients going through cancer treatment.

Psychosocial assessments.

Support for children of parents with cancer.

Facilitation of Living with Cancer Support Group

Creation and facilitation of Caring for the Caregiver and Young Adult and Caregiver Support Group.

Collaboration with health care team in patient’s care.

Clinical Training:

Basic Tobacco Intervention Skills Certification, Arizona Department of Health Services Office of Tobacco Education and Prevention. June 2005.

**Oncology Social Worker, Gastro-Intestinal Cancer Center***,* Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA. September 2003-2004.

Counseling for patients and families with colon and rectal cancers.

Grief counseling on death and dying.

Support for patients who have children.

Crisis intervention.

Psychosocial support for patients.

Collaborate with team on patient’s medical care.

Facilitate Colon Cancer Support Group.

Facilitate Young Adult Cancer Support Group.

Creation of new patient packets for the GI center.

Speak at Cancer Center New Employee Orientation about social work interventions.

Attend and participate in monthly Swartz Rounds.

Resource room volunteer to help educate families about cancer.

Committee Member of Cancer Center Bereavement Program

March 2004. Participate in Colon Cancer Awareness Programs at MGH and other health facilities.

Facilitate HOPES (**H**elping **O**ur **P**atients and families through **E**ducation and **S**upport) program “Learning to Relax”.

Provide psychosocial support for Look Good Feel Better Program.

Clinical Training:

Domestic Violence/HAVEN training. *Domestic Violence Assessment and Intervention, Integrating Screening into Social Work Practice.* November 2003.

Medical Conversational Spanish. March 2004.

Social Work Grand Rounds: The Role of the Father in Male Development, Responding to Disasters, Cultural Diversity: A Clinician’s Perspective, The Ten Commandments of Advocacy, Psychopharmacology Update, Reflections on Social Work-Necessary Miscellaneousness and the Cure of Consumption.

**Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Clinical Social Worker,** University Medical Center, 1998-1999, University Physicians Inc., Tucson, AZ. 2000-2003.

* Conduct psychosocial evaluations.
* Innovate activities for children to promote health and wellness.
* Provide daily psychosocial support.
* Connect families to community resources and financial resources.
* Collaborate with BMT team.
* Participate in weekly medical rounds.
* Provide crisis intervention, individual counseling, play and therapeutic therapy.
* Initiate fund-raising for supplies and activities.
* Support families through loss and death.
* Facilitate monthly pediatric oncology family support group.
* Facilitate weekly pediatric oncology/ bmt group for parents.
* Counsel siblings of patients.
* Case manage.
* Coordinate Annual BMT survivor picnic.
* Provide support for children of dying parents and grandparents.
* Facilitate weekly caregiver support group.

Committees:

Tee Up For Tots, Inc., Committee Member, 1999-2003.

**Senior Research Specialist,** University of Arizona Cancer Center, Tucson, AZ, 1999-2003

* Coordinate the following research studies:

Present:

1. Psychosocial Aspects of Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation Care: by Families for Families. Advanced Medical Research Foundation, Boston, Massachusetts.
2. Assessing the Role of the Tele-home Health Monitor in the Quality of Life and Physical Recovery of Patients Undergoing Bone Marrow Transplantation. Cancer Control Supplement Award. Arizona Telemedicine Program.
3. Efficacy of Computer Image Evaluation in the Diagnosis of Cervical Disease. Dean’s Physician-Scientist Career Development Award. Collaboration with the Arizona Telemedicine Program.
4. Understanding the Role of Culture in the Access and Utilization of Telemedicine Health Services among Hispanic, Native American and White, non-Hispanic Populations. Health Care Financing Administration.

Completed:

1. Stress Reduction for Women with a History of Stage II Breast Cancer. National Cancer Institute. September 1999 to September 2000. Year 1.
2. The Effects of Physical Activity on the Emotional and Physical Recovery of Women with a History of Breast Cancer. Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Expedition Inspiration, Inc.
3. Telemedicine as a Vehicle for Clinical Trial Outreach. Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Southern Arizona Affiliate, Race for the Cure.
4. Osteoporosis and Quality of Life in Pre-menopausal Women Undergoing Chemotherapy for Breast Cancer: A Pilot Study. Arizona Cancer Center.

Skills:

Computer Skills- Excel, Access. Database preparation and entry.

**Social Work Intern***,* Arizona Cancer Center, Tucson, AZ, 1997-1998

American Cancer Society Social Work Training Grant for Clinical Oncology.

* Research, develop, raise funds and facilitate a group called HOPE: An environment that promotes expression, understanding, expression and communication for children whose parent has cancer. Development of group guide.
* Provide counseling for adult patients undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiation.
* Collaborate with doctors, RN’s and staff.
* Assist clinical trials specialist with resources for patients.
* Co-facilitate Living with Cancer and Winning Together weekly support groups.
* Perform crisis intervention, marital therapy, visualization and imagery, play therapy with pediatric patients and children of adult patients.

Research:

Hope-An Environment that Promotes Understanding and Expression for Children whose Parent has Cancer: A Pilot Study. 1998 Pharmaceutical Companies Support and Private Funding. $ 1,000.

**Counseling Facilitator Health Educator.** Girl’s Together Program, 1997-1998

* Work with school-aged girls promoting self-confidence, problem solving and awareness of pressure.

**Social Work Intern***,* Child Protective Services, Tucson, AZ 1997

* Train intensively on child abuse and neglect.
* Case manage ongoing cases.
* Attend court hearings.
* Provide homebound counseling, interventions and parent education.
* Learn state and federal laws concerning child abuse and neglect.

**Child Life Specialist***,* Children’s Hospital, Boston, MA 1995-1996

* Work closely with child life specialist.
* In-patient Cystic Fibrosis unit.
* Provide therapeutic activities for patients. Medical play and education.
* Weekly evaluation and case presentations.
* Experience with asthma, anorexic, bulimic and failure to thrive patients.

Education:

M.S.W, **Masters of Social Work**, Child Specialization, Arizona State University, Tucson, AZ 1998.

B.A., Course of Study: **Child Psychology**, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 1995.

Licensure:

LICSW, State of Massachusetts, March 2005.

LCSW, State of Massachusetts, August 2004.

Professional Memberships:

Since 1996. Member, Association of Oncology Social Workers.

Since 1999. Member, Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers.

Presentations:

Psychosocial Issues of Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation: By Families, For Families. **Kurker, SF**, Modry-Mandell KL, Lopez, AM. . January 2005. The American Psychosocial Oncology Society.

Assessing the Role of the Video Phone in the Quality of Life, Physical Recovery and Satisfaction of Patients Undergoing Bone Marrow Transplantation, Lopez, AM, **Kurker SF**, Major J, Guillen-RJM, Modry-Mandell, KL, Graham, ML, Weinstein. January 2005. The American Psychosocial Oncology Society.

Specialized Program of Research Excellence in Gastrointestinal Cancer. Native American Pathfinder Program Training. Oral Presentation. “Clinical Oncology Social Work”. January 4, 2005.

American Telemedicine Association. Oral Presentation. “Assessing the Role of the Tele-home Health Monitor in the Quality of Life and Physical Recovery of Patients undergoing Bone Marrow Transplantation”. Ana Maria Lopez, MD, MPH, FACP, **Sarah Frances Kurker, MSW**, Janet Major, BS, Jose M Guillen-R, MS, Michael L. Graham, MD, Ronald S. Weinstein, MD. April 2003. Annual Meeting.

American Telemedicine Association. Oral Presentation. “Understanding the Role of Culture in the Access and Utilization of Telemedicine Health Services.” Ana Maria Lopez, MD, MPH, FACP, Phyllis Webster, BA**, Sarah Frances Kurker, MSW**, James Ranger-Moore, PhD, Ronald S. Weinstein, MD. April 2003. Annual Meeting.

American Telemedicine Association. Oral Presentation. “Pilot Data in Telecolposcopy a Primary Care Women’s Clinic” AM Lopez, **S Kurker**, J Major, JM Guillen-R,, J Byron, J Abington, F Libbey, K Hatch, F Garcia, R Weinstein. April 2003. Annual Meeting.

Arizona Cancer Center Research Forum. A Case Study: Counseling with

a Sibling of a Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Patient, **Sarah F. Kurker**, Janet Major, Ana Maria Lopez. Tucson, Arizona, June 20, 2002.

Arizona Cancer Center Research Forum. Telecolposcopy in Underserved Communities, Tucson, Arizona, September 11, 2001.

Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers. Oral Presentation. “ The clinical significance of standardized evaluation of social work intervention in pediatric bone marrow transplant team”. National Conference. April, 2001.

“Psychosocial Issues Around Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant”,

University Medical Center, Nursing Staff Training. 1999.

American College of Physicians, American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP AISM), Arizona Chapter Scientific Meeting. 1999. “Counseling Skills for Behavioral Change”.

“Psychosocial Issues Around Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant and the Social Work Role in Bone Marrow Transplant”, Arizona Cancer Center. 1998.

“Helping Children Cope with Cancer in a Family Member”, St. Gregory’s College Preparation School, Tucson, AZ. 1998.

Facilitation:

Focus Group for Meditation in Motion Participants. May 2002.

Abstracts:

American Society of Clinical Oncology, Abstract. “Telecolposcopy in a Tertiary Care Women’s Clinic: A Pilot Study”. National Conference June 2004. AM Lopez, F Garcia, K Hatch, J Byron, **SF Kurker**, J Guillen, J Major, S Lazarus, D Avery, R Weinstein.

American Telemedicine Association. Abstract/PosterSession “Telecolposcopy in Underserved Communities”. National Conference. June 2002.AM Lopez, **S Kurker**, J Guillen, J Major, K Hatch, B Barker, F Garcia, S Lazarus, R Weinstein. **People's Choice Blue Ribbon Award.**

A.M., Lopez, B. Bensen, J. Guillen, **S.F., Kurker**, M.E. Johnson, S. Bellomo, The Effect of Physical Activity on the Emotional and Physical Recovery of Women with a History of Breast Cancer. American Society of Clinical Oncology, Program/ Proceedings. 2001.

American Telemedicine Association. Abstract/Poster Session. “ Increasing Accessibility of Breast Clinical Trial Information”. National Conference. June 2001.

Grants/Fundraising:

Advanced Medical Research Foundation, 2002, Psychosocial Aspects of Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation Care: by Families for Families. To create a web and text base resource based on the experience of families who have gone through pediatric bone marrow transplantation (BMT) at University Medical Center for patients who will be going through pediatric BMT. $10,000.

Tucson Junior League, 1999. Pediatric Oncology/ Bone Marrow Transplant Fund. Researched need of Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Fund for patients and families and successfully obtained funding for them. $6,000.

Positions:

Regional Editor, Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers. 2001-2003.

Abstract Committee, Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers, 2002-2003.