

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

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NAME: Tjia, Jennifer

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (agency login): JENNIFERTJIA

POSITION TITLE: Associate Professor of Quantitative Health Sciences and Medicine

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Boston University, Boston, MA	BA	05/1994	Medical Science and Political Science
Boston University Medical School, Boston, MA	MD	05/1994	
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA	MS	05/2003	Clinical Epidemiology
Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA	Resident	06/1996	Internal Medicine
University of California San Francisco/Mt Zion, San Francisco, MA	Resident	06/1997	Internal Medicine
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA	Fellow	06/2002	General Internal Medicine
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA	Fellow	06/2003	Geriatric Medicine

**A. Personal Statement**

I am well-suited to contribute to this T32 application based on my prior experience and current NIA-funded K24 mid-career investigator award to enhance my capacity to effectively mentor a multi-disciplinary group of mentees in patient-oriented research. I am a geriatric palliative care physician and clinical investigator dedicated to the conduct of patient-oriented research in aging research, pharmacoepidemiology and deprescribing. I have mentored over 30 pre- and post-doctoral trainees, including 2 R01-funded investigators and a NIA-funded K01 career development award recipient. I look forward to my continued participation as an IMSD mentor and am committed to training since I have trained numerous pre- and post-doctoral fellows. With respect to this application, I can provide training in the following broad areas that are associated with pharmacoepidemiology, deprescribing, and patient-provider communication as a physician-investigator in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences with an appointment in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences. I have spent 20 years providing clinical care to frail older adults in the hospital, nursing home, and outpatient settings, and have trained clinical geriatric fellows, medical residents, and medical students. I have also spent over 10 years focusing on epidemiologic research training as a physician-scientist and mentor to undergraduate medical students, MD/PhD students, clinical fellows and visiting post-doctoral students from abroad. This has resulted in multiple mentored publications in the areas of pharmacoepidemiology and patient-centered research. My well-funded research program includes R01-funded projects to conducted mixed-methods study to describe and address structural racism in healthcare delivery, another R01-funded project to conduct a Community Based Participatory Research project in Alabama and New York that documents and shares experiences of older African American adults with serious illness with clinician in order to improve the delivery of patient-centered care that is both implicit bias aware and conscious of the forces of structural racism. I can provide insight from my experience as a prior K-award recipient, and Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator for privately and federally funded projects for clinical trials, qualitative studies, studies using administrative claims data, and stakeholder-engaged studies to development and implement clinical trials.

**Ongoing and recently completed projects that I would like to highlight include:**

R01  
TJIA (PI)  
9/1/23-6/30/28  
African American (AA) Communities Speak: Partnering with AAs in the North and South to Train Palliative Care Clinicians to Address Interpersonal and Systemic Racism and Provide Culturally Aligned Care  
The goal of this project is to adapt and test the impact of the “Caring for Older African Americans” training program on patient/family’s perception of therapeutic alliance in the setting of serious illness.

R01 NR020439  
TJIA (PI)  
4/1/2022-3/31/27  
Structural Racism and Engagement of Family Caregivers in Serious Illness Care  
The proposed study will use both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine the influence of neighborhood-level caregiver resources and hospital-level practices on intensity of caregiver engagement for hospitalized patients with serious illness and its impact on outcomes of care near the end of life.

K24 AG068300  
Tjia (PI)  
7/1/20-6/30/25  
Longitudinal Patterns of Symptoms, Medication and Hospice Use in Nursing Home Residents Approaching End of Life  
The goal of this project is to use trajectory analysis to examine patterns of symptom burden, medication use, and hospice enrollment using national Medicare Part D claims linked to Minimum Data Set 3.0.

1R01 MD 011532-03  
Tjia (PI)  
05/19/17-01/31/22 (NCE)  
COmuNity-engaged SIMULation Training for Blood Pressure Control (CONSULT-BP)  
The goal of this project is to develop and test an ‘awareness, exposure and skill-building’ intervention program to mitigate implicit race bias and improve providers’ interaction skills with minority and poor patients.

R21 AG060017-02  
Tjia (PI)  
8/1/18 – 6/30/21  
Pilot Study of Standardized PatiEnt-CenTered medication Review (SPECTORx) in Home  
This pilot study aims to demonstrate the feasibility of conducting a clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy of an intervention to support caregivers in medication management for persons in home hospice. The long-term objective is to test the hypothesis that SPECTORx reduces inappropriate medication prescribing and improves family caregiver reported quality of care.

The manuscripts below demonstrate success contributing to the publication of research mentees in peer reviewed journals.

- a. **Tjia J**, DeSanto-Madeya S, Mazor KM, Han P, Nguyen B, Curran T, Gallagher J, Clayton MF. Nurses’ Perspectives on Family Caregiver Medication Management Support and Deprescribing. J Hosp Palliat Nurs. 2019 Apr 26;. doi: 10.1097/NJH.0000000000000574.
- b. **Tjia J**, Clayton M, Chiriboga G, Staples B, Puerto G, Rappaport L, DeSanto-Madeya S. Stakeholder-Engaged Process for Refining the Design of a Clinical Trial in Home Hospice. BMC Medical Research Methodology. 2021. DOI: 10.1186/s12874-021-01275-0 PMID: PMC8091786
- c. Alcusky M, Baek J, **Tjia J**, McManus DD, Lapane KL Geographic Variation in Anticoagulant Use and Resident, Facility, and County-Level Characteristics Associated with Treatment Among United States Nursing Home Residents with Atrial Fibrillation. JAMDA. 2021. 22(1):P164-172.E9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2020.10.001>
- d. Krishnaswami A, Steinman MA, Goyal P, Zullo AR, Anderson TS, Birtcher KK, Goodlin SJ, Maurer MS, Alexander KP, Rich MW, **Tjia J**. Deprescribing in Older Adults with Cardiovascular Disease. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2019 May 28;73(20):2584-2595. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2019.03.467. PMID: PMC6724706

## **B. Positions and Honors**

### **Positions and Employment**

1997-2000	Instructor of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine
2003-2006	Instructor of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
2006-2012	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School
2008-2012	Assistant Professor, Clinical and Population Health Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School
2012-2020	Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Palliative Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School
2012-2016	Associate Professor (non-tenure track), Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA
2016-2020	Associate Professor (tenure track), Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA
2020-	Professor (tenure track), Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA

### **Other Experience and Professional Memberships**

1993-2003	Massachusetts Asian AIDS Prevention Project, Boston, MA Founding Member (1993), Board Member (1997-2002), Treasurer (1999-2002)
1997-2000	Clinical Skills Education Director, The Primary Care Residency Program, Boston University Residency in Internal Medicine, Boston, MA
2003-2006	Patient Note Rater, Clinical Skills Evaluation Center (CSEC) at the Educational Commission For Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), Philadelphia, PA
2003-2006	Fellow, Institute of Aging, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
2008-2009	Member, Technical Expert Panel, Maintenance and Development of Medication Measures for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
2011	Clinical Evaluator and Observer, Objective Standardized Clinical Examination (OSCE) in Geriatric Medicine - 1 <sup>st</sup> year Geriatric fellows (Harvard and Boston University), 3 <sup>rd</sup> year medical students (UMass Medical School)
2020-	MD/PhD Learning Community Mentor (UMass Medical School)

### **Awards/Honors**

1993	Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Award for Innovations in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, National Finalist
1994	Cum Laude, Boston University
1999	Hartford Faculty Scholar in Geriatrics, Boston University School of Medicine
2000	FOCUS Clinical Investigator Award for Research in Women's Health
2002	Lipkin Award for Outstanding Research Paper by a Research Associate, Society of General Internal Medicine, National Finalist
2003	Hartford Fellow in Geriatrics, University of Pennsylvania, Center of Excellence in Geriatrics
2003	Pfizer/American Geriatrics Society Junior Faculty Scholar in Research on Health Outcomes in Geriatrics
2015	Cambia Sojourns Leadership Scholar Award, Cambia Health Foundation

## **C. Contribution to Science**

1. I conducted foundational work in the area of medication prescribing in terminal illness, including the first paper to document the overuse of unnecessary medications in persons with dementia which laid the groundwork for deprescribing trials. With colleagues, we documented the magnitude of medication burden in seriously ill adults with limited life expectancy, set forth guidelines for ethical consideration of medication discontinuation, and provided one of the first nationwide studies to document the burden and cost of questionably beneficial medication use in vulnerable nursing home residents. These studies

emphasize the magnitude of the problem of medication prescribing quality in nursing facilities, and contextualize the need for interventions to improve prescribing.

- a. **Tjia J**, Rothman MR, Kiely DK, Shaffer ML, Holmes HM, Sachs GA, Mitchell SL. Daily medication use in nursing home residents with advanced dementia. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2010 May;58(5):880-8. PubMed PMID: 20406320; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2910133.
  - b. Parsons C, Briesacher BA, Givens JL, Chen Y, **Tjia J**. Cholinesterase inhibitor and memantine use in newly admitted nursing home residents with dementia. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2011 Jul;59(7):1253-9. doi: 10.1111/j.1532-5415.2011.03478.x. Epub 2011 Jun 13. PMID: 21668913; PMCID: PMC4841243.
  - c. **Tjia J**, Givens J. Ethical framework for medication discontinuation in nursing home residents with limited life expectancy. *Clin Geriatr Med.* 2012 May;28(2):255-72. PubMed PMID: 22500542.
  - d. **Tjia J**, Briesacher BA, Peterson D, Liu Q, Andrade SE, Mitchell SL. Use of medications of questionable benefit in advanced dementia. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2014 Nov;174(11):1763-71. PubMed PMID: 25201279; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4689196.
2. Clinical trials are an important component of my body of work. I have conducted cluster randomized trials in nursing home settings, home hospice, and within academic medical centers. These studies have focused on clinician-targeted training intervention to standardize approaches to prescribing, increase knowledge of prescribing guidelines, and address the challenge of implicit bias in provider-patient encounters. A key methodological aspect of these trials has been engagement of key stakeholders and community members in the design and execution of the interventions. Taken together, these studies demonstrate my expertise in using stakeholder engagement methods for clinical trial design and execution.
- a. **Tjia J**, Clayton M, Chiriboga G, Staples B, Puerto G, Rappaport L, DeSanto-Madeya S. Stakeholder-Engaged Process for Refining the Design of a Clinical Trial in Home Hospice. *BMC Medical Research Methodology.* 2021. DOI: 10.1186/s12874-021-01275-0. PMCID: [PMC8091786](#)
  - b. **Tjia J**, Pugnaire M, Calista J, Esparza N, Valdman O, Garcia M, Yazdani M, Hale J, Terrien J, Eisdorfer E, Zolezzi-Wyndham V, Chiriboga G, Rappaport L, Puerto G, Dykhouse E, Potts S, Sifuentes AF, Stanhope S, Allison J, Duodu V, Sabin J. COMmuNity-engaged SimULation Training for Blood Pressure Control (CONSULT-BP): A study protocol. *Medicine (Baltimore).* 2021;100(5):e23680. PMID: 33592827; PMCID: PMC7870252.
  - c. **Tjia J**, Hunnicutt JN, Herndon L, Blanks CR, Lapane KL, Wehry S. Association of a Communication Training Program on Reductions in Nursing Home Antipsychotic Use. *JAMA Internal Medicine.* 2017 Jun 1;177(6):846-853. PMCID: [PMC5818825](#)
  - d. **Tjia J**, Field T, Mazor K, Lemay C, Kanaan A, Donovan JL, Briesacher BA, Peterson D, Pandolfi M, Spenard A, Gurwitz JH. Dissemination of Evidence-Based Antipsychotic Prescribing Guidelines to Nursing Homes: A Cluster Randomized Trial. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2015 Jul;63(7):1289-98. doi: 10.1111/jgs.13488. Epub 2015 Jul 14. PMID: 26173554
3. My body of work has also developed strategies to improving clinician-patient and caregiver communication, including approaches to supportive care and goal-concordant care conversations for older adults with serious illness. These include manuscripts emphasize the critical importance of patient-centered care, the role of family caregivers, and the importance of advance care planning communication amongst clinicians, patient, and family caregivers.
- a. **Tjia J**, D'Arcangelo N, Carlston D, Bronzi O, Gazarian P, Reich A, Porteny T, Gonzales K, Perez S, Weissman JS, Ladin K. U.S. Clinicians' Perspectives on Advance Care Planning for Patients with Dementia. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2022 Dec 22. doi: 10.1111/jgs.18197. PMCID: PMC10175113
  - b. Ashana DC, D'Arcangelo N, Gazarian PK, Gupta A, Perez S, Reich AJ, **Tjia J**, Halpern SD, Weissman JS, Ladin K. "Don't Talk to Them about Goals of Care": Understanding Disparities in Advance Care Planning. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci.* 2022 Feb 3;77(2):339-346. doi: 10.1093/gerona/glab091. PubMed PMID: 33780534; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC8824574.

- c. **Tjia J**, Clayton MF, Fromme E, McPherson ML, DeSanto-Madeya S. Shared Medication PLanning In (SIMPLIfy) Home Hospice: An Educational Program to Enable Goal-Concordant Prescribing in Home Hospice. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. 2021 Jun 5;S0885-3924(21)00367-5. doi: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2021.05.015. PMID: PMC8556298
- d. Puerto G, Chiriboga G, DeSanto-Madeya S, Duodu V, Cruz-Oliver DM, **Tjia J**. Advance Care Planning for Spanish-language Speakers: Patient, Family and Interpreter Perspectives. *J Applied Gerontol*. 2023 Feb 16;7334648231156864.doi: 10.1177/07334648231156864.

Complete List of Published Work in My Bibliography:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/jennifer.tjia.1/bibliography/public/>