

Janet K. Otachi

CURRICULUM VITAE

3500 John A. Merritt Blvd | Nashville, Tennessee, 37209

P: 615-963-7667 | E: jotachi@tnstate.edu

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6403-6227>

EDUCATION

- 2017-2021 **Doctor of Philosophy (May 2021)**
College of Social Work (CoSW), University of Kentucky
Dissertation Title: Enhancing Evidence-Based Tobacco Treatment Services for Clients with Mental Illnesses.
- 2020-2021 **Master of Social Work (MSW)**
College of Social Work (CoSW), University of Kentucky
Concentration: Clinical Social Work Practice
- 2005-2010 **Master of Arts (M.A.)**
University of Nairobi, College of Arts and Social Sciences
Thesis Title: Factors Affecting Doctor-Patient Communication, A study of Survivors of Gender Based Violence.
Concentration: Medical Sociology
- 2000-2004 **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)**
The Catholic University of Eastern Africa
Research Title: Factors Affecting Child-Growth in Rural Communities in Kenya.
Concentration: Social Work

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Social Worker (CSW) State of Kentucky-256895-(6/2/2022-6/2/2025).
- Licensed Social Worker (LSW) Masters State of Illinois- 150.111095- (Expires 11/30/2023).
- Licensed Masters Social Worker (LMSW) State of Tennessee- In Progress

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023-present: Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work and Urban Studies, Tennessee State University.
- 2022-2023: Adjunct Faculty
College of Social Work, University of Kentucky.

- Spring 2023: Adjunct Faculty
College of Social Work, University of Tennessee Knoxville.
- 2022-2023: Instructor
College of Nursing, University of Kentucky.
- 2020-2021: Graduate Peer Tutor
Work Learning Program, Eastern State Hospital.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Social Determinants of Health
- Health Disparities and Equity
- Vulnerable Populations
- Public Health Social Work
- Evidence-based Practice
- Program Evaluation
- Substance Use and Addiction
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Violent Victimization
- Polyvictimization
- Trauma Informed Care

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. Surratt H.L., **Otachi, J.K.**, Slade, E., Kern, P., King, V., Kelly, T.H., & DiPaola, R.S. (2023). Optimizing Team Science in an Academic Medical Center: A Qualitative Examination of Investigator Perspectives. *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*.
2. **Otachi J.K.**, Thrasher, S.S., and Surratt, H.L. (2023). Violence Exposure, Mental Distress, Substance Use Behaviors, and Overdose Experiences Among People Who Inject Drugs. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*.
3. **Otachi J.K.**, Otis, M., Flaherty, C., and Okoli, C.T.C. (2022). Enhancing Provider Delivery of Tobacco Treatment within the inpatient psychiatric setting. *Social Work in Public Health*.
4. **Otachi, J.K.**, Robertson H.E., and Okoli, C.T.C. (2022). Factors associated with work-place violence among healthcare workers in an Academic Medical Center. *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care*. <http://doi.org/10.1111/ppc.13072>.
5. Okoli, C.T.C, **Otachi, J.**, Seng, S., Abufarsakh, B., and Williams, L. (2022) Evaluating simulation-based tobacco treatment scenarios in mental and behavioral healthcare settings. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2022.868550>.
6. Abufarsakh, B., **Otachi, J.**, Wang, T., Al-Mrayat, Y., Okoli, C.T.C. (2021). The Impact of a Nurse-Led Services on Tobacco Treatment Provision within a psychiatric hospital: A Time Series Study. *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*
7. Surratt, H.L, **Otachi, J.K.**, Vundi, N., and McLouth, C. (2021). Healthcare stigma and HIV risk among rural people who inject drugs. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2021.108878>

8. Okoli, C.T.C., Abufarsakh, B., **Otachi, J.** (2021). Quit and Win Contests in Community-Dwelling Mental and Behavioral Health Populations: A Systematic Review and Pilot Feasibility Findings. *Public Health Nursing*. <https://10.1080/10826084.2020.1781179>
9. **Otachi, J.K.**, and Benner, K. (2020). Social work students' perspectives on understanding and addressing research anxiety.
10. **Otachi, J. K.**, Vundi, N., & Surratt, H. L. (2020). Examining Factors Associated with Non-Fatal Overdose among People Who Inject Drugs in Rural Appalachia. *Substance use & misuse*, 55(12), 1935-1942.
11. Surratt, HL, Cowley, A, Gulley, J, Lockard, AS, **Otachi, J.K**, Rains, R, and Williams, T. (2020). Syringe service program uptake among people who inject drugs in Appalachian Kentucky. *American Journal of Public Health*.
12. Higgins, J.T., Okoli, C., **Otachi, J.K**, Lawrence, J., Bryant, E., Lykins, A., & Seng, S. (2020) Factors associated with burnout in nurses caring for traumatically injured patients. *Journal of Trauma Nursing*.
13. **Otachi, J.K.**, Seng, S., and Okoli, C. T. C. (2020). Factors associated with tobacco cessation attempts among inpatients in a psychiatric hospital. *Journal of Smoking Cessation*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jsc.2020.3>
14. Okoli, C.T.C., Seng, S., **Otachi, J.K.**, Higgins, JT., Lawrence, J., Lykins, A., and Bryant, E. (2019). A cross-sectional examination of factors associated with compassion satisfaction and compassion fatigue across health care workers in an Academic Medical Center. *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*. doi:10.1111/inm.12682.
15. Surratt, HL, **Otachi, J.K**, Gulley, J, Lockard, AS, Rains, R, and Williams, T. (2019). Motivation to change and treatment participation among syringe service program utilizers in rural Kentucky. *Journal of Rural Health*. doi: 10.1111/jrh.12388.
16. Seng, S., **Otachi, J.K.**, and Okoli, C. T. C. (2019). Reasons for tobacco use and perceived tobacco-related health risks in an inpatient psychiatric population. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*. doi:10.1080/01612840.2019.1630533
17. Okoli, C.T.C, **Otachi, J.K.**, and Seng, S. (2019). Assessing opinions and barriers to providing evidence-based tobacco treatment among health care providers within an in-patient psychiatric facility. *Journal of Mental Health*. 1-11. doi:10.1080/09638237.2019.1581328
18. Okoli, C.T.C., **Otachi, J.K**, Kaewbua, S., Woods, M., and Robertson, H. (2018). Factors associated with staff engagement in patients' tobacco treatment in a state psychiatric facility. *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*. 23 (4), 268-278. Doi:10.1177%2F1078390317704045
19. Okoli, C.T.C., **Otachi, J.K.**, Manuel, A., and Woods, M. (2017). Factors associated with the intention to engage in tobacco treatment among inpatients in a state psychiatric hospital. *Addictive Behaviors*.25(1), 14-25.doi:10.1111/jpm.12435.

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts Under Review

1. Thrasher, S.S., **Otachi, J.K**, Brune, S.C., Surratt, H.L. (2023). Early vs. Later Experiences of Violence and Polysubstance Use among Adults Who Inject Drugs.
2. Otachi, J.K, Thrasher, S.S., Tate, M., and Surratt, H.L. (2023). Perceived Social Isolation and Risky Substance Use Behaviors Among Vulnerable Adults Who Inject Drugs.

Manuscripts in Progress

1. Facchinei, J., Thrasher, S.S., **Otachi, J.K.**, and Surratt, H.L. (2023). Predictiveness of Community Connectedness and Social Support on Intrinsic Motivation to Change Substance Use Behavior

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

2023-2024: Tennessee State University, Research and Sponsored Programs (RSP) Seed Grant.

Polyvictimization, Risky Substance Use Behaviors, and related Adverse Outcomes Among US Black Emerging Adults. (\$ 5,000, funded).

2023-2024: Tennessee State University, Global Faculty Fellows Program (GFFP).

Program designed to support faculty members who are passionate about global education, research, and internationalization of the curriculum at Tennessee State University (\$ 10,000, funded).

2023-2024: Institute of Humane Studies.

Examining Provider Intentions, Experiences and Practices in the delivery of Culturally Responsive Evidence-Based Substance Use Treatment for Black Youth and Emerging Adults. (\$ 5,000, Not funded).

2019-2020: University of Kentucky, Behavioral Health and Wellness for Living and Learning (BH-WELL) Program, College of Nursing

Career Development and Conference Travel Funds (\$ 3500, funded).

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

1. Thrasher, S. S., **Otachi, J.K.**, Watts, K. J., & Surratt, H. (2023, November). Association between early vs. late childhood trauma and poly-substance use among people who inject drugs in rural Kentucky. The American Public Health Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA., United States (podium).
2. **Otachi, J.K.**, Thrasher, S. S., Watts, K. J., & Surratt, H. (2023, November). Perceived social isolation and outcomes in vulnerable adults who inject drugs. The American Public Health Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA., United States (podium).
3. Abufarsakh, B., Seng, S., **Otachi, J.**, Ickes, M., Okoli, C. T. C. (2022, October). Examining the psychometric properties of the Comic Book Rating Scale to assess tobacco-use health communication dissemination for people with mental illnesses. 36th American Psychiatric Nurses Association Conference, Long Beach, California, October 19-22, 2022 (poster).
4. Abufarsakh, B., Seng, S., **Otachi, J.**, Okoli, C. T. C. (2022, October). Enhancing Tobacco Treatment Delivery by Mental Healthcare Providers using Animated Simulated Training Scenarios. 36th American Psychiatric Nurses Association Conference, Long Beach, California (poster).
5. Okoli, C.T.C., Darville, A., **Otachi, J.**, Robertson, H., Seng, S., & Rademacher, K. (2022,

- June). Promoting specialized tobacco treatment training within Kentucky community mental health centers. 2022 National Conference on Tobacco or Health, New Orleans, Louisiana (podium).
6. Okoli, C.T.C., Seng, S., Robertson, H. E., **Otachi, J.**, Williams, L. (2022, June). Utilization of animated treatment scenarios to enhance training on tobacco treatment delivery. 2022 National Conference on Tobacco or Health, New Orleans, Louisiana (podium).
 7. Okoli, C.T.C., **Otachi, J.**, Seng, S., Robertson, H. E. (2022, June). Assessing the tobacco policy and treatment capacity of Kentucky community mental health centers. 2022 National Conference on Tobacco or Health, New Orleans, Louisiana (poster).
 8. **Otachi, J.K.** and Surratt, Hilary L. (2022, March). Substance Use and Mental Health Among Vulnerable Populations Symposium at the 4th Annual SURE, which will be held on March 1, 2022, at the University of Kentucky Gatton Student Center (podium).
 9. **Otachi, J.K.** (2022, February). Behavioral Health and Tobacco Dependence Treatment Seminar Series. Comprehensive Tobacco-Free Policy Implementation: Special Considerations for Behavioral Health Facilities (virtual).
 10. **Otachi, J.K.** and Okoli, C.T.C. (2021, October). Leveraging strategies for improving provider delivery of evidence-based tobacco treatment in community mental health centers in Kentucky. American Public Health Association (APHA) Denver, Colorado (poster).
 11. Okoli, C.T.C., Robertson, H.E., **Otachi, J.K.**, Abu Farsakh, B., Pemberton, K.M., Williams, L.B. (2021, October). Enhancing behavioral health promotion through tailored comic books: When Nicotine Attacks-Fight the Crave. 35th American Psychiatric Nurses Association Conference, Louisville, KY, U.S.A (poster).
 12. Robertson, H., Seng, Sarret, **Otachi, J.K.**, Okoli, C.T.C. (2021, October). The Work Learning Program (WLP): Supporting career development in psychiatric-mental health nursing. 35th American Psychiatric Nurses Association Conference, Louisville, KY, U.S.A (poster).
 13. Okoli, C.T.C., **Otachi, J.K.**, Carmichael, A.A. (2021, October). Supporting tobacco treatment delivery by mental healthcare providers through simulated substance use treatment scenario training. 35th American Psychiatric Nurses Association Conference, Louisville, KY, U.S.A (poster).
 14. **Otachi, J.K.** and Okoli, C.T.C. (2021, March). Enhancing Evidence Based Tobacco Treatment in Community Mental Health Centers. 3rd Annual Substance Use Research Event (SURE). University of Kentucky Office of the Vice President for Research, Lexington, Kentucky (virtual).
 15. **Otachi, J.K.**, Lykins, A., Robertson, H., and Okoli, C.T.C. (2020, October). Correlates of work-place violence among healthcare workers in an academic medical center. American Public Health Association (APHA) San-Francisco, (virtual).
 16. Okoli, C.T.C., Abu-Farsakh, B., Otachi, J., Robertson, H. (2020, September). The Behavioral Health Quit and Win (BH Q&W) Contest: Promoting tobacco cessation in a community-based mental illness recovery program. 34th American Psychiatric Nurses Association Conference, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, U.S.A (Poster).
 17. Franchino, J. S., **Otachi, J. K.**, and Okoli, C.T.C. (2020, April). How does workplace violence affect compassion satisfaction in nursing staff? 15th Annual UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science Conference, Lexington, KY, USA (poster)
<https://www.ccts.uky.edu/education-training-0/annual-ccts-conferences/15th-annual-spring-conference> (Conference canceled)

18. Franchino, J., **Otachi, J.K.**, and Okoli, C.T.C (2020, March). The effects of workplace violence on compassion satisfaction among nurses. Kentucky Chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Conference, Lexington, KY (poster)
<https://www.apna.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3393> (conference canceled)
19. **Otachi, J.K.**, Giger, J.T and C. T. C, Okoli. (2019, November). Enhancing Evidence Based Tobacco Treatment in Mental Health Settings. American Public Health Association (APHA) Philadelphia (poster).
20. Surratt, Hilary L., and **Otachi, J.K.** (2019, November). Syringe service program utilization and treatment linkage among people who inject drugs in rural Kentucky. American Public Health Association (APHA) Philadelphia (podium).
21. **Otachi, J.K.**, Latimer, A., and Pachner, T.M. (2019, October). Health Policy in Social Work Practice: An Elective Course. E-Poster for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Denver, Colorado (poster).
22. Okoli, C.T.C., Seng, S., **Otachi, J.**, Higgins, J., Lawrence, J., Lykins, A., and Bryant, E. (2019, October). Secondary traumatic stress, burnout, and compassion fatigue among health care workers at an academic-medical center. 33rd American Psychiatric Nurses Association Conference, New Orleans (poster).
23. Okoli, CTC., Seng, S., **Otachi, J.K.**, Higgins, J., Lawrence, J., Lykins, A., Bryant, E. (2019, September). Behavioral and work-related factors associated with secondary traumatic stress, burnout, and compassion satisfaction among health care workers at an academic-medical center. Translational Research Forum on Secondary Traumatic Stress. Lexington, KY (Podium).
24. Surratt, Hilary L., Staton, M., Cowley, A. and **Otachi, J.K.** (2019, June). Syringe exchange uptake and HIV risk behaviors among rural people who inject drugs. Annual Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, San Antonio, Texas (poster).
25. Surratt, Hilary L., and **Otachi, J. K.** (2019, May). Syringe service program utilization in rural Kentucky. National Rural Health Association Health Equity Conference, Atlanta, Georgia (podium).
26. Latimer A., Pachner T., and **Otachi J.K.** (2019, April). Social Media in the Classroom: Let us Tweet About it. KASWE Spring Conference, Morehead State University Kentucky (podium).
27. Surratt H.L, Cowley A.M., **Otachi J.K.**, Thompson R., Williams T., Lockard S., Gulley J., Rains. R, Li J and Staton M. (2018, September). Appalachian Translational Research Network. 8th Annual Summit. Structural HIV and HCV Prevention Efforts Among People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) in Rural Appalachian Kentucky (poster).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, University of Kentucky College of Nursing BREATHE/Medicaid Partnership (July 2018 to June 2020), contribution (20%). Implementation of a behavioral health tobacco dependence treatment program for Kentucky Medicaid Recipients and evidence-based tobacco treatment interventions in mental and behavioral health settings.

Research Assistant, University of Kentucky (August 2017 to August 2019), contribution 30%. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded study designed to reach vulnerable injection drug users in Clark, Knox, and Pike counties to understand the multi-level barriers to access

syringe exchange programs and to identify priority intervention targets and strategies to increase uptake. Data collection, literature review, manuscripts, and poster development.

Tracking and Evaluation Consultant, Info-Africa Research and Development Centre, Nairobi Kenya (January 2012 to January 2013), contribution 25%. Assisted in implementation research for a results-based monitoring and evaluation program for learning.

Research Assistant, Reproductive health fistula project Engender Health, Nairobi Kenya. (April to July 2011) contribution 25%. Data collection for a project on fistula corrective surgeries for women in rural Kenya.

Research Assistant, Africa 2.0, Nairobi Kenya (2011 to January 2012), contribution 20%. Literature review on regional disparity in social determinants of health in Africa.

Social Work Consultant/ Community Liaison Officer - Ideal Environmental Consultancy, Nairobi Kenya (November 2009- November 2010), contribution 100%. Implementation of HIV prevention programs and development of environmental and social monitoring plan (ESMP) in road construction.

Recruitment Manager, Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi Kenya (March 2008 to April 2010), contribution 100%. Community outreach and recruitment manager for a phase 3 partners PrEP study for HIV discordant couples.

Social Work Consultant/ Community Liaison Officer, Urban Research and Development Center for Africa (URADCA), Nairobi Kenya (July 2005 to July 2006). Microbicides preparedness among female sex workers

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Social Work 4000: Social Work Intervention in Health (2 credits), Spring 2024. Undergraduate Online Course.
- Social Work 6120: MSW Research 1I (3 credits), Spring 2024. Graduate Online Course.
- Social Work 5000: Grant Writing (3 credits), Spring 2024. Graduate Online Course.
- Social Work 6020: MSW Research 1 (3 credits), Fall 2023. Graduate Course In person.
- Social Work 6230: Advanced Macro Practice (3 credits), Fall 2023. Graduate Online Course.
- Social Work 750: Applied Research Methods in Social Work (3 credit hours), Spring 2023. Graduate Online Course.
- Social Work 650: Research Methods in Social Work (3 credit hours), Spring 2023. Graduate Online Course.
- Social Work 324: Human Development in Context: Young Adulthood through Older Adulthood (3 credit hours), Spring 2023. Undergraduate Online Course.
- Social Work 620: Understanding Theory in Social Work Practice (3 credit hours), Fall 2022. Graduate Online Course.

- Social Work 650: Research Methods in Social Work (3 credit hours), Summer 2019. Graduate Hybrid Course.
- Social Work 422: Human Behavior and Social Environment II (3 credit hours), Spring 2019. Undergraduate Course In-person. Guest Lecturer.
- Social Work 322: Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare (3 credit hours), Spring 2019. Undergraduate Course In person. Guest Lecturer.

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

1. Facchinei, J. Bachelor of Social Work Student. Louisiana State University, School of Social Work. Summer, 2023.
2. Brune S.C. **PhD Social Work Student**. Louisiana State University, School of Social Work. Summer, 2023.
3. Mitamba, V.K. **Master of Social Work Student**. University of Kentucky, College of Social Work. Spring 2023 to present.
4. Machinga, R.O. **PhD Social Work Student**. University of Kentucky, College of Social Work. Spring 2022 to present.
5. L, Still. **Doctor of Social Work Student**. University of Kentucky, College of Social Work. Spring-Fall 2020.
6. Seng, S. **PhD Nursing Student**. University of Kentucky, College of Nursing. Spring 2022.
7. Carmichael, A. **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Student**. University of Kentucky, College of Nursing. Spring 2022.
8. Franchino, J. **Undergraduate Nursing Student**. University of Kentucky, College of Nursing. Spring 2020- Summer 2021.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Interventionist, Research, and Interventions for Cardiovascular Health (RICH) Heart Program-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depressive Symptoms in Rural Patients with Cardiac Disease (COMBAT-DS) Study: University of Kentucky College of Nursing, (December 2022-August 2023).

Social Worker Senior, Behavioral Health: University of Kentucky Health Care (UKHC), Good Samaritan Hospital, Behavioral Health Unit (June 2022-December 2022).

Interventions and Partnerships Manager: NIH HEAL Initiative, Healing Communities Study: Substance Use Priority Research Area, University of Kentucky, Behavioral Health (August 2021-June 2022).

Research Assistant/ Program Coordinator: Behavioral Health Wellness Environments for Living and Learning (BH WELL), University of Kentucky College of Nursing (May 2016-August 2021).

Program Coordinator: Tracking and Evaluation for UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS), University of Kentucky Center for Health Services Research (September 2016-August 2019).

Mental Health Associate, Acute Psychiatric Unit: Eastern State Hospital/ UK Health Care; Lexington Kentucky, USA (April 2014-August 2016).

Program Officer, Tracking and Evaluation, Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), Nairobi Kenya (May 2012-June 2013).

Program Associate, Tracking and Evaluation, Leadership and Management Systems (LMS) USAID Program, Management Sciences for Health, Nairobi Kenya (May 2010 to May 2012).

Medical Social Worker, Nairobi Women's, and Children's Hospital Gender Violence Recovery Center (GVRC) Nairobi Kenya (July 2006-March 2008).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- National Association of Social Workers (NASW)-2019 to present.
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)-2019 to present.
- American Public Health Association (APHA)- 2019 to present.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. **Technical Writing Assistance:** Operation Making a Change: An agency serving at risk youth from vulnerable low-income communities in Lexington, Kentucky. (March 2020 to March 2021).
2. **MSW Practicum:** Eastern State Hospital (In-patient Acute Psychiatric Facility), Lexington, KY. (Summer 2021).
3. **Intern**, United Nations HIV/AIDS Workplace Program, Nairobi Kenya (July 2005 to July 2006).
4. **Social Work Student Practicum**, Homeless Children International Childcare and Development Program, Nairobi and Loitoktok, Kenya (April to August 2003). The program focused on rehabilitating street girls and girls from low-income families.
5. **Medical Social Work Student Practicum**, Kenyatta National Hospital, Medical Social Work Department, Nairobi, Kenya (April to August 2002).
6. **Social Work Student Practicum**, Kabiro Health Care Trust, Behavior Change Communication Program to promote sexual health and prevent drug and alcohol use/abuse among youth from low-income communities, Nairobi Kenya (April to August 2001).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Academic Committee

- 2023-24: MSW Thesis Program Committee, Tennessee State University.
- 2023-24: Doctoral Program Development Committee, Tennessee State University.

Journal Review

- 2023: Reviewer *Violence Against Women Journal*
- 2023: Reviewer *Journal of Substance Use*.
- 2022: Reviewer *Journal of Rural Health*.
- 2019-2021: Reviewer *Perspectives on Social Work Journal*.