



Mattie Miracle Early Investigator Research Grant Award

**APOS Awards Ceremony - Capitol South/Center (Sheraton Atlanta Hotel)
Thursday, February 28, 2019 from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST**

I am Victoria Sardi-Brown, the President and co-founder of the Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation. I am joined by my husband, Peter, who is the co-founder and CEO of Mattie Miracle. We are a Foundation that was born out of the tragic death of our only child, Mattie. Mattie taught us that psychosocial care must be part of comprehensive cancer care, and without it the medical treatment is not as effective. Mattie Miracle had the vision for the need to create Psychosocial Standards of Care and we are committed to not only funding their development but their implementation as well. Which is why we decided to partner with APOS and develop an early investigator research grant.

As a Foundation, we could have hosted our own internal grant making process or perhaps even selected a different professional association to house this grant. But we selected APOS for many reasons. The most important of which is we consider APOS to be our professional association home. Peter and I are both members of APOS and decided to become members after hosting our first Psychosocial Standards Think Tank at your conference in 2013. Back then we had the honor of meeting your founder, Jimmie Holland, and getting to know your pediatric superstar, Dr. Lori Wiener. From Jimmie, Lori, and our countless interactions with APOS members it was clear to us then as it is to us now that you live out our Foundation's tagline, and that is. childhood cancer is NOT just about the medicine. I can't tell you how refreshing it is for parent advocates to be

surrounded by professionals who understand us and the psychosocial language we speak.

This year, APOS and Mattie Miracle embarked on new territory.... To fund research designed to implement any of the 15-evidence based Psychosocial Standards of Care which were published in Pediatric Blood & Cancer in 2015. 26 letters of intent were submitted to us and 12 were invited to submit full proposals. Proposals were reviewed by three experts in the area of the proposal, and they were evaluated based on scientific merit, innovation, significance to psychosocial oncology, and investigator qualifications. On a side note, Mattie Miracle was so impressed with the caliber of proposals received that the Foundation selected five additional studies to fund at a lower level, bringing the total to almost \$40,000 in research grants made to APOS members this year. We welcome you to attend the Pediatric Psychosocial Standards Symposium tomorrow at 3:15pm to hear from all our awardees.

With that said, for the \$10,000 Mattie Miracle Early Investigator grant, the research selection committee chose Dr. Kimberly Canter's proposal entitled, Community Implementation of a Psychosocial e-health Intervention for parents of children with cancer.

I have the pleasure of telling you a little bit about Dr. Canter. Dr. Canter is an Assistant Research Scientist II in the Nemours Center for Healthcare Delivery Science in Wilmington, Delaware and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Thomas Jefferson University. She completed a pediatric psychology residency in the Division of Behavioral Health and a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship at Nemours under the mentorship of Dr. Anne Kazak.

The \$10,000 grant we are providing to Dr. Canter will enable her to conduct a community centered pilot test of eSCCIP, in order to evaluate the intervention's feasibility and key psychosocial outcomes. eSCCIP stands for Electronic Surviving Cancer Competently Intervention Program and is a brief, cognitive-behavioral and family systems eHealth intervention for parents and caregivers of children with cancer.

We are thrilled that Dr. Canter is actively exploring ways to support parents and caregivers, because Mattie Miracle believes parents and caregivers are the unsung heroes throughout the childhood cancer journey. It is my honor to present the first Mattie Miracle Early Investigator Research Grant Award to Dr. Kimberly Canter.