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## **A. Personal Statement**

Briefly describe why you are well-suited for your role in the project described in this application. The relevant factors may include aspects of your training; your previous experimental work on this specific topic or related topics; your technical expertise; your collaborators or scientific environment; and your past performance in this or related fields (you may mention specific contributions to science that are not included in Section C).

**Also, you may identify up to four peer reviewed publications that specifically highlight your experience and qualifications for this project.** If you wish to explain impediments to your past productivity, you may include a description of factors such as family care responsibilities, illness, disability, and active duty military service.

## **A. Personal Statement**

I have the expertise, leadership, training, expertise and motivation necessary to successfully carry out the proposed research project. I have a broad background in psychology, with specific training and expertise in ethnographic and survey research and secondary data analysis on psychological aspects of drug addiction. My research includes neuropsychological changes associated with addiction. As PI or co-Investigator on several university- and NIH-funded grants, I laid the groundwork for the proposed research by developing effective measures of disability, depression, and other psychosocial factors relevant to the aging substance abuser, and by establishing strong ties with community providers that will make it possible to recruit and track participants over time as documented in the following publications. In addition, I successfully administered the projects (e.g. staffing, research protections, budget), collaborated with other researchers, and produced several peer-reviewed publications from each project. As a result of these previous experiences, I am aware of the importance of frequent communication among project members and of constructing a realistic research plan, timeline, and budget. The current application builds logically on my prior work. During 2005-2006 my career was disrupted due to family obligations. However, upon returning to the field I immediately resumed my research projects and collaborations and successfully competed for NIH support.

1. **Merryle, R.J. & Hunt, M.C. (2004). Independent living, physical disability and substance abuse among the elderly. *Psychology and Aging*, 23(4), 10-22.**
  2. **Hunt, M.C., Jensen, J.L. & Crenshaw, W. (2007). Substance abuse and mental health among community-dwelling elderly. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 24(9), 1124-1135.**
  3. **Hunt, M.C., Wiechelt, S.A. & Merryle, R. (2008). Predicting the substance-abuse treatment needs of an aging population. *American Journal of Public Health*, 45(2), 236-245. PMID: PMC9162292**
- Hunt, M.C., Newlin, D.B. & Fishbein, D. (2009). Brain imaging in methamphetamine abusers across the life-span. *Gerontology*, 46(3), 122-145.**

## **B. Positions and Honors**

List in chronological order previous positions, concluding with the present position. List any honors. Include present membership on any Federal Government public advisory committee.

## **B. Positions and Honors**

### **Positions and Employment**

1998-2000 Fellow, Division of Intramural Research,  
Abuse, Bethesda, MD

National Institute of Drug

2000-2002	Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT
2001-	Consultant, Coastal Psychological Services, San Francisco, CA
2002-2005	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2007- Louis, MO	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

### C. Contribution to Science

Briefly describe up to **five of your most significant contributions** to science. For each contribution:

- **indicate the historical background that frames the scientific problem;**
- **the central finding(s);**
- **the influence of the finding(s) on the progress of science or the application of those finding(s) to health or technology;**
- **and your specific role in the described work.**

**For each of these contributions, reference up to four peer-reviewed publications or other non-publication research products** (can include audio or video products; patents; data and research materials; databases; educational aids or curricula; instruments or equipment; models; protocols; and software or netware) that are relevant to the described contribution.

**The description of each contribution should be no longer than one half page** including figures and citations.

Also **provide a URL to a full list of your published work** as found in a publicly available digital database such as SciENcv or My Bibliography, which are maintained by the US National Library of Medicine.

### C. Contribution to Science

1. **My early publications directly addressed the fact that substance abuse is often overlooked in older adults. However, because many older adults were raised during an era of increased drug and alcohol use, there are reasons to believe that this will become an increasing issue as the population ages. These publications found that older adults appear in a variety of primary care settings or seek mental health providers to deal with emerging addiction problems. These publications document this emerging problem but guide primary care providers and geriatric mental health providers to recognize symptoms, assess the nature of the problem and apply the necessary interventions. By providing evidence and simple clinical approaches, this body of work has changed the standards of care for addicted older adults and will continue to provide assistance in relevant medical settings well into the future. I served as the primary investigator or co-investigator in all of these studies.**

- Gryczynski, J., Shaft, B.M., Merryle, R., & Hunt, M.C. (2002). Community based participatory research with late-life addicts. *American Journal of Alcohol and Drug Abuse*, 15(3), 222-238.
- Shaft, B.M., Hunt, M.C., Merryle, R., & Venturi, R. (2003). Policy implications of genetic transmission of alcohol and drug abuse in female nonusers. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 30(5), 46-58.
- Hunt, M.C., Marks, A.E., Shaft, B.M., Merryle, R., & Jensen, J.L. (2004). Early-life family and community characteristics and late-life substance abuse. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 28(2), 26-37.
- Hunt, M.C., Marks, A.E., Venturi, R., Crenshaw, W. & Ratonian, A. (2007). Community-based intervention strategies for reducing alcohol and drug abuse in the elderly. *Addiction*, 104(9), 1436-1606. PMID: PMC9000292

2. In addition to the contributions described above, with a team of collaborators, I directly documented the effectiveness of various intervention models for older substance abusers and demonstrated the importance of social support networks. These studies emphasized contextual factors in the etiology and maintenance of addictive disorders and the disruptive potential of networks in substance abuse treatment. This body of work also discusses the prevalence of alcohol, amphetamine, and opioid abuse in older adults and how networking approaches can be used to mitigate the effects of these disorders.

- a. Hunt, M.C., Merrylye, R. & Jensen, J.L. (2005). The effect of social support networks on morbidity among elderly substance abusers. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 57(4), 15-23.
- b. Hunt, M.C., Pour, B., Marks, A.E., Merrylye, R. & Jensen, J.L. (2005). Aging out of methadone treatment. *American Journal of Alcohol and Drug Abuse*, 15(6), 134-149.
- c. Merrylye, R. & Hunt, M.C. (2007). Randomized clinical trial of cotinine in older nicotine addicts. *Age and Ageing*, 38(2), 9-23. PMID: PMC9002364

3. Methadone maintenance has been used to treat narcotics addicts for many years but I led research that has shown that over the long-term, those in methadone treatment view themselves negatively and they gradually begin to view treatment as an intrusion into normal life. Elderly narcotics users were shown in carefully constructed ethnographic studies to be especially responsive to tailored social support networks that allow them to eventually reduce their maintenance doses and move into other forms of therapy. These studies also demonstrate the policy and commercial implications associated with these findings.

- a. Hunt, M.C. & Jensen, J.L. (2003). Morbidity among elderly substance abusers. *Journal of the Geriatrics*, 60(4), 45-61.
- b. Hunt, M.C. & Pour, B. (2004). Methadone treatment and personal assessment. *Journal Drug Abuse*, 45(5), 15-26.
- c. Merrylye, R. & Hunt, M.C. (2005). The use of various nicotine delivery systems by older nicotine addicts. *Journal of Ageing*, 54(1), 24-41. PMID: PMC9112304
- d. Hunt, M.C., Jensen, J.L. & Merrylye, R. (2008). The aging addict: ethnographic profiles of the elderly drug user. NY, NY: W. W. Norton & Company.

**Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography:**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/collections/public/1PgT7IEFIAJBtGMRDdWFmjWAO/?sort=date&direction=ascending>

**D. Research Support**

List both selected ongoing and completed research projects for **the past three years** (Federal or non-Federally-supported). *Begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in the application.* Briefly indicate the overall goals of the projects and responsibilities of the key person identified on the Biographical Sketch. Do not include number of person months or direct costs.

**D. Research Support**

**Ongoing Research Support**

R01 DA942367                      Hunt (PI)                      09/01/08-08/31/16

Health trajectories and behavioral interventions among older substance abusers

The goal of this study is to compare the effects of two substance abuse interventions on health outcomes in an urban population of older opiate addicts.

Role: PI