



Heads Up Therapies

Curriculum Vitae – Denise Harris, Ph.D.

Associate Occupational Therapist

PERSONAL PROFILE

I am a published writer, research scholar, and lecturer of occupational therapy with over 20 years of field experience. Enthusiastic and eager to contribute, as a consulting occupational therapist, to team success through hard work, attention to detail, and excellent organisational skills. Recognised for outstanding performance and contributions to both patients and the industry. Excellent track record of resolving issues, increasing satisfaction, and driving overall operational improvements.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Ph.D. by Published Works

Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester

Thesis: Interpreting the Meaning of Existence for the Person with Motor Neurone Disease, and their Family Carer(s)

Master of Philosophy

Lancaster University, Lancaster

Research Project: Hermeneutic phenomenological research project: Exploring Existential Loss in the Context of Motor Neurone Disease

Master of Research in Health Sciences

Lancaster University

Research Project: Exploring multidisciplinary palliative care teams understanding of the Mental Capacity Act of 2005 'best interest' determinations.

Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy with Honours

Salford University

Advanced GNVQ Health and Social Care, BTEC, 2000

Distinction

Certificate of Secondary Education - 8 qualifications (Levels 1-4)

Including Mathematics and English

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Health and Care Professions Council

Royal College of Occupational Therapists

EMPLOYMENT

Lifeworld Approach to Occupational Therapy Services

2014 – Present

Director/owner

Conceptualised and launched a company to provide care and education to patients with motor neurone disease and their professional caregivers. Cultivated community relationships led to developing and implementing business strategies, goals, and services to achieve positive patient outcomes. Working as an Associate OT and Care Expert for Heads-Up Therapies and Maggie Sargent & Associates.

- Published a book chapter exploring a research journey and developed papers to propose a person-centred care model in MND, focusing on individuality, which includes three

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significant elements: 1. presuppositions, 2. acceptance, and 3. temporality.

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2023 – Present

NHS, Social Services, and Private Sector Companies

2003 – 2020

Occupational Therapist

Delivering a holistic approach to patient-centred care to empower patients/clients in community rehabilitation (2003 -2022). Skillfully formed and supported compassionate relationships with patients/clients and their caregivers while serving as the primary point of contact for providing relevant medical information and practical tools or resources necessary to facilitate positive post-acute care outcomes. They utilised extensive knowledge of rehabilitation therapy, diagnostic procedures, and patient counselling strategies that supported direct services and improved quality care.

- Completed PhD and wrote an opinion paper that was published and disseminated to MND Consultants and Teams throughout the U.K., Northern Ireland, and Wales.
- Developed and funded a 10-year postgraduate research project, resulting in a Ph.D.
- Developed the model of person-centred care for people with motor neurone disease and others at the end of life.
- Extensive experience covering a range of services: community rehabilitation, rapid response, falls, housing, palliative, and end-of-life care; this involved assessing patients in their own homes based on their health needs ranging from significant trauma, orthopaedics, brain injury, amputee, chronic pain, functional neurological disorder, etc.

Salford University


2005 – 2007 & 2010 – 2014

Lecturer, Directorate of Occupational Therapy

Created and implemented complete curriculums to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in occupational therapy. Maintained a productive research agenda and conducted service to strengthen the University's program. Collaborated with faculty peers to continually enhance curriculum and improve the department.

- Advised up to 18 students per semester, acting as a mentor and providing professional and pastoral support.
- Created an intimate learning community for students by integrating academic experiences with a professional career.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Harris, D. (2021) Interpreting end-of-life experiences of the person with motor neurone disease. *Palliative and Supportive Care*, 20, 300–301. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1478951521000699>
2. Harris, D.A. Jack, K. and Wibberley, C. (2020) The need to consider 'temporality' in person-centred
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care of people with motor neurone disease (In press). Accepted Manuscript, 4th June 2020, European Journal for Person Centred Healthcare.

3. Harris, D.A. Jack, K. and Wibberley, C. (2019) Making her end of life her own: further reflections on supporting a loved one with motor neurone disease. *International Journal of Palliative Care Nursing*, Vol 25, No.6, 284-292 <https://doi.org/10.12968/ijpn.2019.25.6.284>
4. Harris, D.A. Jack, K. and Wibberley, C. (2018) The meaning of living with uncertainty for people with motor neurone disease. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 27, 2062-2071. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.14350>
5. Harris, D.A. (2017) Doing research drawing on the philosophy of existential hermeneutic phenomenology. *Palliative and Supportive Care* 15, 267–269. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1478951516000377>
6. Harris, D.A. (2017a) Supporting a loved one living with motor neurone disease. *Palliative and Supportive Care* 15, 141–142. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1478951516000134>
7. Harris, D.A. (2015) Lived-through past, experienced present, anticipated future: Understanding “existential loss” in the context of life-limiting illness. *Palliative and Supportive Care* 13, 1579–1594. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1478951515000620>

DISSEMINATIONS

1. Harris, D. (2023) There is more to a person than motor neurone disease. University of Salford Student Conference. **January 2024.**
2. Harris, D. (2023) There is more to a person than motor neurone disease. International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations. **December 2023.**
3. Harris, D. (2022) The need to consider ‘temporality’ in person-centred care of people with motor neurone disease. University of Salford Student Conference **January 2023.**
4. Harris, D. (2022) Lifeworld Approach to Care: E-Learning Course on Motor Neurone Disease End of Life Care. 30 th International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations. December 2022.
5. Harris, D. (2022) Making her end of life her own: further reflections on supporting a loved one with motor neurone disease. 33 rd International Symposium on ALS/MND. **December 2022.**
6. Harris, D. (2021) Interpreting the meaning of existence for people with motor neurone disease and their family caregivers. International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations. **December 2021**
7. Harris, D. (2021) Interpreting the meaning of existence for people with motor neurone disease and their family caregivers. 32nd International Symposium on ALS/MND. **December 2021**
8. Harris, D. (2020) The need to consider ‘temporality’ in person-centred care of people with motor neurone disease. 31st International Symposium on ALS/MND. **December 2020 Page 3 | 1**





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9. Harris, D. (2016) Lived-through past, experienced present, anticipated future: Understanding “existential loss” in the context of life-limiting illness. European Association for Palliative Care Research Network (EAPC RN) Annual Symposium, Brussels, Belgium. **September 2016**

10. Harris, D. (2015) ‘Existential loss’ in the context of Motor Neurone Disease: A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Study. The Motor Neurone Disease Association 26th International Symposium, Orlando, Florida, **December 2015**



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