

# Karen Besterman-Dahan, PhD, RD

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Commission on Dietetic Registration 713932

## **Appointments:**

### **Qualitative Core Director - Tampa**

### **Medical Anthropologist – Health Research Scientist**

HSR&D/RR&D Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, James A Haley VAMC - Tampa, Florida: 2008 – present

### **Visiting Professor**

College of Nursing, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 2012-2013

### **Courtesy Faculty:**

- College of Nursing, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, 2013-present
- Department of Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida: 2009-present
- Department of Aging and Mental Health Disparities, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, College of Behavioral & Community Sciences, University of South Florida Tampa, Florida: 2009-present

### **Adjunct Faculty:**

- Department of Criminology, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida: 2010-2011

### **Previous Positions:**

- **Research Associate**, Department of Cancer Control/Health Outcomes and Behavior H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Tampa, FL; 2006-2008
- **Clinical/Research Dietitian**, Department of Nutrition H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Tampa, FL; 1992 – 2006
- **Consultant Dietitian**, Redline, Denver, CO, 1995 –1997
- **Clinical Dietitian**, Shepherd Spinal Center, Atlanta, GA. 1991-1992
- **Clinical Dietitian**, Southern Regional Medical Center, Riverdale, GA, 1989-1991

### **Education:**

University of South Florida, Tampa FL  
Ph.D. – 2008: Biocultural Anthropology

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL  
M.A. – 1999: Adult Education

Florida International University, Miami, FL  
B.S. – 1989: Dietetics and Nutrition

### **Teaching Experience:**

- CCJ 6709 – Qualitative Methods in Criminology – Graduate course of qualitative perspectives and methodological designs in criminological research and inquiry – USF Department of Criminology (2011)
- Guest Lecturer, Qualitative Methods -Ethnography, USF College of Nursing (2008, 2012)
- Guest Lecturer, Symbolic Anthropology-Anthropological Theory, USF Department of Anthropology, (2008)
- Guest Lecturer, Human Nutrition, USF Department of Biology (2007)
- Guest Lecturer, Human Nutrition (HUN2201) USF College of Nursing (1995-2007)

**Peer reviewed Publications:**

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen** & Alison Hamilton (Ed). Anthropology Goes Public in the VA. Annals of Anthropological Practice. *In press*.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen**, Jason D. Lind, and Theresa Crocker. "You never heard Jesus say to make sure you take time out for yourself": Military chaplains and the stigma of mental illness. Anthropology Goes Public in the VA. Annals of Anthropological Practice. *In press*.

Powell-Cope, G, Toyinbo, P, Patel, N, Rugs, D, Elnitsky, C, Hahm, B, Sutton, B, Campbell, R, **Besterman-Dahan, K**, Matz, M, Hodgson, M. Effects of a National Safe Patient Handling Program on Caregiver Injury Incidence Rates. *Journal of Nursing Administration*. *In press*.

Crocker, Theresa, Gail Powell-Cope, Lisa Brown and **Karen Besterman-Dahan**. Toward a Veteran-Centric View on Community (Re)Integration. *JRRD*, 51 (3): xi-xv, 2014

Powell-Cope, G, Quigley PA, **Besterman-Dahan K**, Lind JD. Perceived Benefit of Group

Exercise Among Individuals with Peripheral Neuropathy. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*. March 12, 2014: doi: 10.1177/0193945914523493

Rugs D, Toyinbo P, Patel N, Powell-Cope G, Hahm B, **Besterman-Dahan K**, Elnitsky C, Sutton B, Campbell R. Study Protocol: Processes and Outcomes of the Veterans Health Administration Safe Patient Handling Program. *JMIR Res Protoc*; November 18, 2013: 2(2) e49. doi:10.2196/resprot.2905

**Besterman-Dahan K**, Barnett SD, Hickling EJ, Lind J, Elnitsky C, Skvoretz J, & Antinori A. Bearing the Burden: Deployment Stress and Army National Guard Chaplains. *Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy*, 18: 151-168, 2012. DOI: 10.1080/08854726.2012.7235.

**Besterman-Dahan K**, Barnett SD, Hickling EJ, Gibbons S & Watts D. Military Chaplains and the Mental Health of the Deployed Service Member. *Military Medicine*, 177 (9): 1028-1033, 2012.

Kumar NB, Kang L, Pow-Sang J, Xu P, Allen K, Riccardi D, Allen K, **Besterman-Dahan K**, Krischer JP. Results of a randomized phase I dose-finding trial of several doses of isoflavones in men with localized prostate cancer: administration prior to radical prostatectomy. *Journal of the Society for Integrative Oncology*, 2010 Winter; 8(1):3-13.

**Dahan K**, Fennel M, Kumar, NB. Lycopene in the Prevention of Prostate Cancer. *Journal of the Society for Integrative Oncology*, 6(1): 29-36, 2008.

Kumar, NB, Krischer, JP, Allen, K, Riccardi, D, **Besterman-Dahan, K**, Salup, R, Kang, L, Xu P, & Pow-Sang, J. Safety of purified isoflavones in men with clinically localized prostate cancer. *Nutrition and Cancer*, 59 (2): 169-75, 2007.

Kumar, NB, Krischer, JP, Allen, K, Riccardi, D, **Besterman-Dahan, K**, Salup, R, Kang, L, Xu P, & Pow-Sang, J. A Phase II Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial of Purified Isoflavones in Modulating Steroid Hormones in men diagnosed with Localized Prostate Cancer. *Nutrition and Cancer*. 59(2): 163-68, 2007.

Kumar NB, Cantor A, Allen K, Riccardi D, **Besterman-Dahan K**, Seigne J, Helal M, Salup & Pow-Sang J. The Specific Role of Isoflavones in Reducing Prostate Cancer Risk . *Prostate*, 59:2, May1, 2004.

Kumar, NB, Hopkins, K, Allen, K, Riccardi, D, **Besterman-Dahan, K** & Moyers, S. Use of Complementary/Integrative Nutritional Therapies During Cancer Treatment: Implications in Clinical Practice, *J of Cancer Control*. 9(3):236-243, 2002

Kumar NB & **Besterman-Dahan K**. Nutrients in Chemoprevention: Current and Future prospects. *J Cancer Control*. November 6(6):580-586, 1999.

**Chapters/Books:**

Kumar NB, **Besterman-Dahan K**, Kazi A, & Heine J. Isoflavone in Breast Cancer Chemoprevention in: Herbal Drugs: A Twenty First Century Perspective Editors: RK Sharma and Rajesh Arora, Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers Pvt. Ltd, Delhi.

Kumar NB, Moyers S, Allen K, Riccardi D & **Besterman K**. Integrative Nutritional Therapies in Cancer Treatment & Prevention. Facts & Comparisons, a division of Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Inc., A Wolters Kluwer Company, St. Luis, Mo. January 2002.

Alternative and Complementary/Integrative Nutritional Therapies in Cancer Treatment & Prevention. Moffitt Cancer Network (MCN), H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Center, Tampa, Florida. July 2000

**Presentations/Abstracts:**

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen**, Gail Powell-Cope. Using Mixed Methods to facilitate the understanding of community reintegration experiences of U.S. Military Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury. Mixed Methods International Research Association Conference, Boston, 2014.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen**. Military Chaplains and Mental Health of Deployed Service Members. Presented at the 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Anthropological Association Conference, Chicago, 2013.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen** & Megan McCullough. When the Doctor is Not in; Emergent Practices of Care in Patient/Non-Physician Provider Interactions. Panel organizers, 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Anthropological Association Conference, Chicago, 2013.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen**. You never heard Jesus say to make sure to take time out for yourself: Military chaplains and the Stigma of Mental Illness. Presented at the Joint Society for Medical Anthropology/European Association of Medical Anthropology Conference, Tarragona, Spain, 2013.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen**. Deployment Stress among Army National Guard Chaplains. Presented at the 111<sup>th</sup> Annual American Anthropological Association Conference, San Francisco, 2012.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen**. Unanticipated Positive Consequences of a Safe Patient Handling Program. Presented at 4th Annual West Coast Safe Patient Handling Conference, San Diego, 2012.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen & Christine Elnitsky**. Safety Culture in the Safe Patient Handling Initiative. Presented at 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Safe Patient Handling and Movement Conference, Orlando, 2012.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen & Christine Elnitsky**. Role of the Unit Peer Leader on Safe Patient Handling. Presented at 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Safe Patient Handling and Movement Conference, Orlando, 2012.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen & Jason Lind**. Bearing the Burden: The Effects of Multiple Deployments on Military Chaplains. Presented at the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual American Anthropological Association, Montreal, 2011.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen & Christine Elnitsky**. Contribution of Anthropology to Understanding the Perceptions and Needs of Female Veterans with Amputations. Presented at the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual American Anthropological Association, Montreal, 2011.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen & Christine Elnitsky.** Barriers and Facilitators to Implementation of the Safe Patient Handling Program. Presented at 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Safe Patient Handling and Movement Conference, Orlando, 2011.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen.** Combat to Classroom: Exploring Reintegration in Student Veterans. Presented at the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual American Anthropological Association Conference, New Orleans, 2010.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen, Powell-Cope, Gail.** Barriers and Facilitators to Program Implementation in Safe Patient Handling. Presented at 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual West Coast Safe Patient Handling & Movement Conference, San Diego, 2010.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen.** Mixed Method Research to Explore Colorectal Cancer Beliefs and Behaviors among Ashkenazi Jewish Women. Presented at 6<sup>th</sup> Mixed Method International Conference, Baltimore, 2010.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen, Hickling Edward, Nickles Meredith, Schonfeld Lawrence, Olney, Ronald.** Challenges Faced by Student Veterans Reintegrating from Military to Academic Life. Rehabilitation Outcomes Conference, Tampa, 2010.

Quigley P, Bulat T, Powell-Cope G, Groer S, Schultz B, **Besterman-Dahan K**, Ahmed S, & Stylianides G. Effect of Group Exercise on Gait and Balance in Peripheral Neuropathy. . Rehabilitation Outcomes Conference, Tampa, 2010.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen.** Peer Leaders in Fall Prevention. Presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Falls Management Conference, Clearwater, 2010.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen.** Characterizing Successful Facility Champions. Presented at the Safe Patient Handling and Movement Conference, Orlando, 2010.

**Besterman-Dahan, Karen.** Observational Data from Site Visits to Assess Implementation. Presented at the Safe Patient Handling and Movement Conference, Orlando, 2010.

**Dahan, Karen.** Influence of Pollution Concepts on decisions in colorectal cancer screening in Ashkenazi Jewish populations in Tampa. Cancer, Culture and Literacy Conference, Clearwater, 2008.

### **Academic Service**

- Reviewer for *Journal for Mixed Method Research*, 2011-present
- Reviewer for *Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine: an Open Access Journal*, 2013-present
- Reviewer for *Health Care: Current Reviews*, 2014-present
- Reviewer for *Human Organization*, 2014-present
- Dissertation Committee Member, Bridget Cotner, PhD (2014), Department of Measurement and Research, College of Education, USF

### **Professional Societies:**

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|-----------------|---|
| 2014 to present | American Institute for Maghrib Studies                |
| 2013 to present | National Association for the Practice of Anthropology |
| 2005 to present | American Anthropological Association                  |
| 2010 to present | Society for Anthropology of Religion                  |
| 2005 to present | Society for Medical Anthropology                      |
| 2005 to present | Society for Applied Anthropology                      |

**Ongoing Research Support****CRE 12-302 - VA HSR&D– Powell-Cope (PI)/Besterman-Dahan (Co-PI) 2014-2017****Action Ethnography of Community Reintegration for Veterans with TBI**

The goal of this study is to better understand the experiences of Veterans with moderate to severe TBI, families and community workers as they reintegrate into communities. **Role: Co-PI**

**NCE 13-430 – ORD – Powell-Cope (PI) 2013-2015****VA Nursing Innovations Center for Evaluation (NICE)**

The mission of the proposed center, VA Nursing Innovations Center for Evaluation (NICE), is to provide ONS with world class services and consultation for evaluating the structures, processes, and impacts of VA nursing initiatives. **Role: Co-I**

**IIR 11-343-2 - VA HSR&D - Uphold (PI) 2013-2017****Utilizing the RESCUE Stroke Caregiver Website to Enhance Discharge Planning**

This randomized clinical trial is to determine the effects of a problem-solving intervention using the RESCUE website and online text messaging on stroke caregiver outcomes.

**Role: Site PI (Tampa)****1 I50 HX001233-01 [VA HSR&D/RR&D]Mann (PI/Director) 2013-2018****Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research**

The CIDRR engages in research to develop strategies for improving rehabilitation services and the long term management of disability including issues that impact family members, for Veterans of all ages. **Role: Core Investigator/Qualitative Core Director**

**Completed Research Support****D7800P -VA-RR&D – Besterman-Dahan (PI) 2011-2013****Exploring Deployment Stress and Reintegration in Army National Guard Chaplains.**

The purpose of this pilot study is to explore the impact of deployment on the psychosocial and health characteristics and reintegration of Military Chaplains, specifically those of the Army National Guard (ARNG). **Role: Principal Investigator**

**USF Veteran Reintegration Foundation– Braue & Besterman-Dahan (PI) 2011-2012****Elements of a Veteran Friendly Campus**

The purpose of this pilot study is to evaluate perceptions of barriers and facilitators to reintegrations and needs of student veterans from multiple perspectives, including student veterans, faculty and staff. **Role: Co-PI**

**XVA 95-009 - VACO– Elnitsky (PI) 2011-2012****Evaluation of a Program for Management of Disruptive Behavior**

The purpose of this study is to to examine current practices associated with VA facility-based violence risk assessment processes. **Role: Co-Investigator**

**XVA-95001 -VACO Special Projects - Nelson (PI) 2008-2012****Evaluation of the VHA Safe Patient Handling Initiative**

This longitudinal evaluation uses a mixed methods approach, with data collection over a 3 year period with the goal of assessing processes and outcomes associated with comprehensive SPH Initiative. **Role: Co-I**

**IIR 06-164 -VA- HSR&D - Scott (PI) 2009-2011****Blast-Related Health Problem Identification and Polytrauma Taxonomy**

The purpose of this prospective study is to develop taxonomy of polytraumatic injuries using a large cohort of Florida National Guard. **Role: Co-Investigator**

**XVA95001 1- VACO - Powell-Cope (PI) 2009-2011**

**Characterizing Successful Facilitation**

The goal of this study is to understand how and why facility champions successfully implement the National Safe Patient Handling program at their facilities. **Role: Co-Investigator**

**RRP 09-175 VA-QUERI - Neugaard (PI) 2009-2011**

**Heart Failure Outcomes: A Self- Management Care Coordination Pilot Program**

The purpose of this set of formative evaluations is to refine a set of care coordination processes for patients with heart failure. **Role: Co-Investigator**

**XVA 95002-01 PSCI/VA NPSC Safety- Powell-Cope (PI) 2009-2011**

**Social Marketing to Support Fall Prevention in Inpatient Psychiatry Units**

The goal of this project is to determine market segment specific recommendations for “selling” falls prevention in acute inpatient psychiatry. **Role: Co-Investigator**

**E3974R VA RR&D - Nelson (PI) 2007-2010**

**Characterizing Wheelchair-Related Falls in Elderly Veterans**

The goal of this study is to determine the etiology and risk factors for wheelchair–related tips and falls among elderly veterans and to determine the outcomes and consequences of these falls.

**Role: Co-Investigator**

**O4-4006RA - VA RR&D - Quigley (PI) 2006-2009**

**Effect of Exercise on Gait and Balance in Peripheral Neuropathy**

The goal of this study is to improve successful adaptation to aging and quality of life in veterans with lower extremity peripheral neuropathy. **Role: Co-Investigator**

**3R01CA122060-02S1 - NIH 5R01CA122060-02 NCI (Kumar (PI) 2007-2008**

**A Phase II Clinical trial of Polyphenon E in Prostate Cancer**

The goal of this randomized, double-blinded chemopreventive trial is to determine the effects of polyphenon E (green tea polyphenols) in modulating prostate cancer progression in men with HGPIN. **Role: Co-I**

**GlaxoSmithKline - Kumar NB (PI) 2007-2008**

**A Phase II clinical trial of n-3 fatty acids in cancer cachexia**

The goal of this trial was to determine the efficacy of n-3 fatty acids in modulating cancer cachexia on cancer patients on selected biomarkers. **Role: Co-Investigator/Clinical Trial Coordinator**

**NCI - Kumar NB (PI) 2001-2006**

**The Specific Role of Isoflavones in Reducing Prostate Cancer Risk**

The goal of this randomized, double-blinded study was to determine the efficacy of purified soy isoflavones in producing a change in hormonal and proliferative risk parameters in men with prostate cancer **Role: Co-I**

**NCI-P02-0216 NCI - Kumar NB (PI) 2002-2006**

**A Randomized Pilot Clinical Trial of the Action of Isoflavones and Lycopene in Localized Prostate Cancer: Administration Prior to Radical Prostatectomy**

The goal of this study was to determine the efficacy of purified soy isoflavones and lycopene in producing a change in men with prostate cancer. **Role-Co-Investigator**

**AICR99 B030 & DOD US Army - Kumar NB (PI) 2000-2002**

**Specific role of genistein in reducing hormonal and proliferative risk parameters in prostate cancer. Role: Co-Investigator**

**NCI/NABTT - Brem (PI)**

**1999-2001**

**Phase II study of Penicillamine and reduction of Copper for Angiosuppressive Therapy of Adults with Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma. Role: Research Dietitian**