

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
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| NAME Hunt, Virginia Lively | POSITION TITLE Associate Professor of Psychology | | |
|---|---|-------|--------------------------------|
| eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login) huntvl | | | |
| EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.) | | | |
| INSTITUTION AND LOCATION | DEGREE (if applicable) | MM/YY | FIELD OF STUDY |
| University of California, Berkeley | B.S. | 05/90 | Psychology |
| University of Vermont | Ph.D. | 05/96 | Experimental Psychology |
| University of California, Berkeley | Postdoctoral | 08/98 | Public Health and Epidemiology |

A. Personal Statement

The goal of the proposed research is to investigate the interaction between drug abuse and normal aging processes. Specifically, we plan to measure changes in cognitive ability and mental and physical health across a five-year period in a group of older drug users and matched controls. I have the expertise, leadership and motivation necessary to successfully carry out the proposed work. I have a broad background in psychology, with specific training and expertise in key research areas for this application. As a postdoctoral fellow at Berkeley, I carried out ethnographic and survey research and secondary data analysis on psychological aspects of drug addiction. At the Division of Intramural Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), I expanded my research to include neuropsychological changes associated with addiction. As PI or co-Investigator on several previous 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. 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, and I have chosen co-investigators (Drs. Gryczynski and Newlin) who provide additional expertise in cognition, gerontology and geriatrics. In summary, I have a demonstrated record of successful and productive research projects in an area of high relevance for our aging population, and my expertise and experience have prepared me to lead the proposed project.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

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|-----------|---|
| 1998-2000 | Fellow, Division of Intramural Research, National Institute of Drug Abuse, Bethesda, MD |
| 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 |
| 2005- | Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO |

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

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| 1995- | Member, American Psychological Association |
| 1998- | Member, Gerontological Society of America |
| 1998- | Member, American Geriatrics Society |
| 2000- | Associate Editor, Psychology and Aging |
| 2003- | Board of Advisors, Senior Services of Eastern Missouri |
| 2003-04 | NIH Peer Review Committee: Psychobiology of Aging, ad hoc reviewer |
| 2005-09 | NIH Risk, Adult Addictions Study Section, member |

Honors

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| 2003 | Outstanding Young Faculty Award, Washington University, St. Louis, MO |
| 2005 | Excellence in Teaching, Washington University, St. Louis, MO |
| 2008 | Award for Best in Interdisciplinary Ethnography, International Ethnographic Society |

C. Selected Peer-reviewed Publications (Selected from 42 peer-reviewed publications)

Most relevant to the current application

1. Merrylye, R.J. & Hunt, V.L. (2004). Independent living, physical disability and substance abuse among the elderly. *Psychology and Aging*, 23(4), 10-22.
2. Hunt, V.L, 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, V.L, Wiechelt, S.A. & Merrylye, R. (2008). Predicting the substance-abuse treatment needs of an aging population. *American Journal of Public Health*, 45(2), 236-245. PMID: PMC9162292
4. Hunt, V.L., Newlin, D.B. & Fishbein, D. (2009). Brain imaging in methamphetamine abusers across the life-span. *Gerontology*, 46(3), 122-145.
5. Hunt, V.L. & Sher, K.A. (2009). Successful intervention models for older drug-abusers: Research across the life-span. *American Psychologist*, in press. NIHMSID: NIHMS99135

Additional recent publications of importance to the field (in chronological order)

1. Gryczynski, J., Shaft, B.M., Merrylye, R., & Hunt, V.L. (2002). Community based participatory research with late-life addicts. *American Journal of Alcohol and Drug Abuse*, 15(3), 222-238.
2. Shaft, B.M., Hunt, V.L., Merrylye, 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.
3. Hunt, V. L., Marks, A.E., Shaft, B.M., Merrylye, R., & Jensen, J.L. (2004). Early-life family and community characteristics and late-life substance abuse. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 28(2),26-37.
4. Hunt, V.L., 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.
5. Hunt, V.L., 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.
6. Hunt, V.L, Marks, A.E., Venturi, R., Crenshaw, W. & Ratonian, A. (2006). Community-based intervention strategies for reducing alcohol and drug abuse in the elderly. *Addiction*, 104(9), 1436-1606. PMID: PMC9000292
7. Merrylye, R. & Hunt, V.L. (2006). Randomized clinical trial of cotinine in older nicotine addicts. *Age and Ageing*, 38(2), 9-23. PMID: PMC9002364
8. Hunt, V.L., Jensen, J.L. & Merrylye, R. (2008). The aging addict: ethnographic profiles of the elderly drug user. NY, NY: W. W. Norton & Company.
9. Hunt, V.L. (2009). Contrasting ethnicity with race in the older alcoholic. *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, in press. PMID: PMC Journal – In Process.
10. Hunt, V.L. (2009). Intervening successfully with the older methadone patient. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 13(4), 67-79.

