



Keri Brenner

Clinical Associate Professor, Medicine - Primary Care and Population Health

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Palliative Medicine**

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Bio

BIO

Keri Brenner, MD, MPA is Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Stanford University. As a palliative care physician and psychiatrist, her clinical work includes inpatient palliative care consultations at Stanford. She was inspired to pursue palliative care after serving at Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying in Kolkata, India on multiple occasions. Dr. Brenner's scholarly interests and research focus on the psychological elements of palliative care, specifically psychodynamic and existential issues in patients with serious illness. Dr. Brenner completed her medical degree at Yale School of Medicine, where she received honors for her thesis on the phenomenology of suffering with terminal illness. She also has a Master in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School. Dr. Brenner completed adult psychiatry residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and palliative care fellowship at Harvard. She served on the University of Notre Dame Board of Trustees (2005-2008), and was awarded funding through Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (2019). In her personal life, Dr. Brenner enjoys the beautiful outdoors of Northern California with her husband and four young children.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Palliative Medicine
- Hospice and Palliative Medicine

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Associate Professor, Medicine - Primary Care and Population Health

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Emerging Leader in Hospice and Palliative Medicine, American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (2024)
- Telly Silver Award, The Mission of the Jonathan J. King Lectureship (Producer), Telly National Awards (2024)
- Executive Producer of Regional Emmy Nomination, The Human Side of Medicine, 53rd Annual Northern California Area Emmy Nomination, Health Category (2024)
- Outstanding Palliative Care Faculty Award, Division of Primary Care and Population Health, Stanford Department of Medicine (2024)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Board Certification: Hospice and Palliative Medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine (2016)

- Medical Education: Yale University School of Medicine (2011) CT
- Fellowship: Massachusetts General Hospital Palliative Care Fellowship (2016) MA
- Board Certification: Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (2015)
- Residency: MGH McLean Adult Psychiatry Residency (2015) MA
- Internship: Massachusetts General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency (2012) MA

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Psychotherapeutically Informed Serious Illness Communication: Series Introduction.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Chammas, D., Brenner, K. O.
2026: 10966218261417859
- **Avoidance: Exposure Therapy Informed Communication for Serious Illness Care.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Chammas, D., Jackson, V., Brenner, K. O.
2026: 10966218261431684
- **Overwhelming Uncertainty: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Informed Communication for Serious Illness Care.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Williamson, B., Merrill, G., Slomoff, T., Brenner, K. O., Gamble, A., Chammas, D.
2026: 10966218261433430
- **Domains of prognostic awareness, quality of life, and psychological distress in patients with advanced cancer.** *The oncologist*
Amonoo, H. L., Centracchio, J., Greydanus, C., Lavoie, M. W., Keane, E. P., Greer, J. A., Lindenberger, E. C., Brenner, K., Ufere, N. N., Traeger, L., Temel, J. S., Park, E. R., Jackson, et al
2025
- **Process Rounds to Elevate Psychological Skills in Palliative Care.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Chammas, D., Rosenberg, L. B., Moment, A., Shalev, D., Brenner, K.
2025
- **Oncology and Suffering: Strategies on Coping With Grief for Health Care Professionals.** *American Society of Clinical Oncology educational book. American Society of Clinical Oncology. Annual Meeting*
Brenner, K. O., Nathanson, A., Slawkowski-Rode, M.
2025; 45 (3): e482244
- **Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About Supporting Coping in Serious Illness.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Chammas, D., Moment, A., Leff, V., Buxton, D., Rosa, W. E., Brenner, K.
2025
- **Primary Mental Health Competencies for Hospice and Palliative Medicine Physicians: A Delphi Study.** *Journal of pain and symptom management*
Podgurski, L., Chammas, D., Brenner, K. O., Rosenberg, L. B., Goyal, N. G., Lapid, M. I., Morris, S. E., Pirl, W. F., Sumser, B., Thompson, B. W., Wright, L., Shalev, D.
2025
- **Integrating Psychotherapeutic Concepts to Enhance Serious Illness Communication: Assessment of a Model Curriculum.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Chammas, D., Brenner, K., Moment, A., Byrne-Martelli, S. E., Rosenberg, L. B., Shalev, D.
2025
- **When Patients Express Anger**
Chammas, D., Scheel, T., Polisso, M., Brenner, K.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2025
- **Death Anxiety: Ubiquitous Yet Unspoken**
Chammas, D., Brenner, K., Saks, N., Solomon, S., Bowman, T.

ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2025: E482-E483

- **Bogetz Lecture: Palliative Care for Patients With Long-Standing Eating Disorders**
Rosenberg, L., Datta-Barua, I., Cramer, M., Brenner, K., Treem, J., Conviser, J., Johnson, L.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2025: E476-E477
- **We've Got Your Back: Pearls for Interdisciplinary Psychological and Psychiatric Palliative Care**
Rosa, W., Brenner, K., Robbins-Welty, G., Polisso, M., Linderman, E., Shalev, D., Chammas, D.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2025
- **Realizing the Imperative: The Future of Mental Health and Palliative Care Integration.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Shalev, D., Brenner, K. O., Fitzgerald Jones, K., Kozlov, E., Portz, J. D., Rosenberg, L. B., Ufere, N. N., Wallace, C. L., Webb, J. A., Chammas, D.
2024
- **Facing Illness Together: Understanding the Role of the Couple in Palliative Care.** *The American journal of hospice & palliative care*
Chammas, D., Fishel, A., Kramer, M., Brenner, K. O., Rosenberg, L. B.
2024: 10499091241302413
- **Formulation in Palliative Care: Elevating Our Potential for Therapeutic Communication.** *The American journal of hospice & palliative care*
Chammas, D., Moment, A., Rosenberg, L., Shalev, D., Brenner, K. O.
2024: 10499091241300614
- **Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About Applying Key Psychotherapy Concepts in Practice.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Chammas, D., Williamson, B., Scheel, T., Goyal, N., Rosenberg, L. B., Shalev, D., Gamble, A., Polisso, M., Rosa, W. E., Brenner, K. O.
2024
- **Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About Diagnosing, Categorizing, and Addressing Fatigue.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Robbins-Welty, G. A., Chammas, D., Silverman, E. J., Lowry, M. F., Hale, E., Martinez, C., Nakatani, M. M., Shalev, D., Noufi, P., Riordan, P. A., Brenner, K. O., Rosa, W. E., Jones, et al
2024
- **Mind the Gap: Understanding Palliative Care Clinician Attitudes Toward Mental Health Training.** *The American journal of hospice & palliative care*
Shalev, D., Chammas, D., Brenner, K. O., Moxley, J. H., Reid, M. C., Rosenberg, L. B.
2024: 10499091241265107
- **Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About the Psychiatric Manifestations of Nonpsychiatric Serious Illness and Treatments.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Robbins-Welty, G. A., Riordan, P. A., Shalev, D., Chammas, D., Noufi, P., Brenner, K. O., Briscoe, J., Rosa, W. E., Webb, J. A.
2024
- **Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About the Physical Manifestations of Psychiatric Illness and Treatment.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Robbins-Welty, G. A., Shalev, D., Riordan, P. A., Noufi, P., Webb, J. A., Brenner, K. O., Rosa, W. E., Chammas, D.
2024
- **Primary Mental Health Competencies for Palliative Medicine Physicians: A Consensus-Prioritized List**
Podgurski, L., Brenner, K. O., Chammas, D., Goyal, N., Lapid, M., Morris, S. E., Pirl, W. F., Rosenberg, L. B., Sumser, B., Thompson, B., Shalev, D.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2024: E726
- **Letter to the Editor: Advancing the Psychological Elements of Palliative Care: From Theory to Teaching.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Shalev, D., Chammas, D., Brenner, K., Rosenberg, L.
2024; 27 (3): 294-295
- **Palliative Care Psychiatry: Building Synergy Across the Spectrum.** *Current psychiatry reports*
Shalev, D., Brenner, K., Carlson, R. L., Chammas, D., Levitt, S., Noufi, P. E., Robbins-Welty, G., Webb, J. A.
2024
- **Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About the Psychological Aspects of Palliative Care Encounters.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Chammas, D., Brenner, K. O., Gamble, A., Buxton, D., Byrne-Martelli, S., Polisso, M., Shalev, D., Rosenberg, L. B.

2023

- **Looking Within, Together: Optimizing Interdisciplinary Team Meetings with Key Psychodynamic Concepts**
Rosenberg, L. B., Chammas, D., Brenner, K. O., Shalev, D., Natarajan, S., Scheel, T., Long, J.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2023: E287-E288
- **Authors' Response to Reader Comments to Jackson et al. Psychological Elements of Palliative Care Series (DOI: 10.1089/jpm.2022.0061).** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Rosenberg, L. B., Shalev, D., Brenner, K. O., Seaton, M., Jacobsen, J. C., Jackson, V. A.
2022; 25 (5): 701-702
- **Turning the Lens Inward: The Psychological Elements of Clinician Well Being.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Shalev, D., Traeger, L. N., Doyle, K., Kiser, S. B., Brenner, K. O., Rosenberg, L. B., Jacobsen, J. C., Seaton, M., Jackson, V. A.
1800
- **(Don't) Leave Me Alone: Attachment in Palliative Care.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Shalev, D., Jacobsen, J. C., Rosenberg, L. B., Brenner, K. O., Seaton, M., Jackson, V. A., Greer, J. A.
1800; 25 (1): 9-14
- **Referral Relationship: Illuminating the Ways Palliative Care Creates a Holding Environment for Referring Clinicians.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Brenner, K. O., Logeman, J., Rosenberg, L. B., Shalev, D., Jackson, V. A., Seaton, M., Jacobsen, J. C., Emanuel, L. L.
2022
- **To Accompany, Always: Psychological Elements of Palliative Care for the Dying Patient.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Rosenberg, L. B., Brenner, K. O., Shalev, D., Jackson, V. A., Seaton, M., Weisblatt, S., Jacobsen, J. C.
2022
- **Defining Clinical Attunement: A Ubiquitous But Undertheorized Aspect of Palliative Care.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Jacobsen, J., Brenner, K. O., Shalev, D., Rosenberg, L. B., Jackson, V. A.
2021
- **The Meaning of Together: Exploring Transference and Countertransference in Palliative Care Settings.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Rosenberg, L. B., Brenner, K. O., Jackson, V. A., Jacobsen, J. C., Shalev, D., Byrne-Martelli, S., Cramer, M. A.
2021
- **Exploring the Psychological Aspects of Palliative Care: Lessons Learned from an Interdisciplinary Seminar of Experts.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Brenner, K. O., Rosenberg, L. B., Cramer, M. A., Jacobsen, J. C., Applebaum, A. J., Block, S. D., Doolittle, D. B., El-Jawahri, A., Emanuel, L. L., Greer, J. A., Margulies, A. S., Logeman, J., Rinaldi, et al
2021; 24 (9): 1274-1279
- **Foundations for Psychological Thinking in Palliative Care: Frame and Formulation.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Shalev, D., Rosenberg, L. B., Brenner, K. O., Seaton, M., Jacobsen, J. C., Jackson, V. A.
2021; 24 (10): 1430-1435
- **Responding to Community Needs During COVID-19: A Virtual, Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Education Series for the Public**
Bleymaier, C., Bragg, A., Smith, G., Brenner, K., Yotopoulos, A., Lee, C.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2021: 663-64
- **Development of a Prognostic Awareness Impact Scale for Patients with Advanced Cancer.** *Journal of palliative medicine*
Brenner, K., Greer, J. A., Jackson, V., Park, E., Wright, E., Jacobsen, J., Topping, C., Jagielo, A., Elyze, M., Sereno, I., Temel, J. S., El-Jawahri, A.
2021
- **DEVELOPMENT OF A PROGNOSTIC AWARENESS QUESTIONNAIRE (PAQ) FOR PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED CANCER**
Sereno, I. I., Brenner, K., Greer, J. A., Jackson, V. A., Park, E. R., Jacobsen, J., Temel, J. S., El-Jawahri, A.
OXFORD UNIV PRESS INC.2020: S261
- **Psychiatrist in My Pocket: Essential Psychiatric Skills for the Palliative Care Provider**
Gamble, A., Riordan, P. A., Jordan, A. E., Webb, J. A., Brenner, K. O., Buxton, D.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2020: 401-2

- **Lessons from a Therapist's Chair: Optimizing Palliative Communication Through Psychotherapy Best Practices and Skills**
Chammas, D. M., Brenner, K. O.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2020: 436–37
- **Relationship Between Perceptions of Treatment Goals and Psychological Distress in Patients With Advanced Cancer.** *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network : JNCCN*
El-Jawahri, A. n., Forst, D. n., Fenech, A. n., Brenner, K. O., Jankowski, A. L., Waldman, L. n., Sereno, I. n., Nipp, R. n., Greer, J. A., Traeger, L. n., Jackson, V. n., Temel, J. n.
2020; 18 (7): 849–55
- **An Integrative Framework of Appraisal and Adaptation in Serious Medical Illness.** *Journal of pain and symptom management*
Bickel, K. E., Levy, C. n., MacPhee, E. R., Brenner, K. n., Temel, J. S., Arch, J. n., Greer, J. A.
2020
- **Circle of Trust: How Psychodynamic Themes Such as the 'Holding Environment' Optimize Coping with Serious Illness**
Brenner, K., Jackson, V., Emanuel, L.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2019: 426–27