



Diana Maria Todea

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Work permit: Romanian Gender: Female Date of birth: 30/05/1992

Nationality: Romanian

ABOUT ME

PhD Candidate in Psychology

ACADEMIC PROFILE

PhD candidate in Psychology at the Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies, University of Bucharest (2020–2025), with doctoral research on fear of cancer recurrence (FCR) in cancer survivors. Interdisciplinary approach combining meta-analytic methods, network analysis, natural language processing (NLP) and the cognitive-behavioral framework. The four studies of the thesis are published in Web of Science-indexed journals. Research activity grounded in sustained clinical practice in psycho-oncology at the "Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuță" Oncology Institute in Cluj-Napoca.

EDUCATION

PhD in Psychology since October 2020

Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies (ISDS), University of Bucharest

Thesis: *Fear of Cancer Recurrence in Cancer Survivors: Linguistic, cognitive, and emotional patterns in corroboration with mental health*

Doctoral supervisor: Professor Ioana R. Podina, PhD

Master's degree in Psychosomatic Medicine October 2019 - June 2020

Iuliu Hațieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca.

Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy October 2014 - June 2016

Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca .

Bachelor's degree in Psychology October 2011 - June 2014

Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Psycho-oncology · fear of cancer recurrence (FCR) · mental health in cancer survivorship · cognitive-behavioral therapy · trauma centrality and post-cancer identity reconstruction · natural language processing applied to mental health · meta-analysis and network analysis · digital solutions in cancer care.

PROFESSIONAL AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Psychologist – psychological support for cancer patients and survivors since *July 2014*

"Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuță" Oncology Institute, Cluj-Napoca, within the Little People Romania Association

– Emotional support interventions during and after cancer treatment

- Facilitation of adjustment processes, emotional resilience and coping strategies
- Grounding of doctoral research in clinical settings, ensuring translational relevance

Research Assistant – aiCARE Project 2021 – 2022

University of Bucharest · CNCS–UEFISCDI, PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2019-2140 (PNCDI III)

Project Director: Prof. Ioana R. Podina, PhD

- Contributed to the development of a chatbot for automated screening of depression, anxiety and psychological distress in cancer patients
- Data collection and preparation, moderator coding, drafting of manuscript sections

Member – The Laboratory of Cognitive Clinical Sciences since 2020

University of Bucharest

Vice President – MINDCARE FOR ALL NGO since 2024

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

COST Action CA21152 - INE-CSC (Integrating and Empowering Cancer Survivors through Digital Solutions) - PhD Fellow, 2024. Training and collaboration with researchers across more than 30 European institutions.

SUNRISE Project (Horizon Europe, Grant Agreement No. **101136829**) - member, since 2024. Psychological and social dimensions of cancer survivorship.

E-QuoL Initiative (Horizon Europe, Grant Agreement No. **101136549**)) - member, since 2024.

aiCARE Project - CNCS–UEFISCDI, PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2019-2140, PNCDI III; research assistant, 2021–2022.

PUBLICATIONS IN WEB OF SCIENCE-INDEXED JOURNALS

1. **Todea, D.**, Luca, A., & Podina, I. R. (2025). CANCER. Is this forever? Examining the relationship between event centrality and fear of cancer recurrence from a cognitive-behavioral standpoint. *Journal of Rational-Emotive & Cognitive-Behavior Therapy*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10942-024-00567-w>
2. Podina, I. R., **Todea, D.**, & Fodor, L. A. (2023). Fear of cancer recurrence and mental health: A comprehensive meta-analysis. *Psycho-Oncology*, 32(10), 1503–1513. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pon.6205>
3. Podina, I. R., Bucur, A. M., **Todea, D.**, Fodor, L. A., Luca, A., Dinu, L. P., & Boian, R. (2023). Mental health at different stages of cancer survival: A natural language processing study of Reddit posts. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 14, 1150227. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1150227>
4. Fodor, L. A., **Todea, D.**, & Podina, I. R. (2023). Core fear of cancer recurrence symptoms in cancer survivors: A network approach. *Current Psychology*, 42, 24795–24810. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-022-03500-5> (

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. Oral presentation: "Fear of Cancer Recurrence and Mental Health: A Comprehensive Meta-Analysis." APR Conference, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, June 2025.
2. Oral presentation: "Cancer. Is It Forever? Examining the Relationship Between Trauma Centrality and Fear of Cancer Recurrence from a Cognitive-Behavioral Perspective." APR Conference, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, June 2025.

3. Oral presentation (online webinar): "How Can We Support Cancer Survivors in Improving Their Quality of Life?" International Webinar on Cancer Survivorship, COST Action CA21152 (INE-CSC), online, 18 June 2025.
4. Oral presentation: "Cancer's Emotional Grip: Trauma Centrality and Fear of Cancer Recurrence." Empowering Cancer Survivors: Innovations and Insights Through Digital Solutions – A COST Action Conference on Cancer Survivorship, Medical University of Gdańsk, Poland, August 2024.
5. Oral presentation: "Critical Thinking and the Digital Future of Psychology." Romanian Youth Psychology Summit, Cluj-Napoca, June 2024.
6. Oral presentation: "Cancer. Is This Forever? Trauma Centrality and Fear of Cancer Recurrence: A Moderated Mediation Approach." 37th Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPS), Bremen, Germany, 4–8 September 2023.
7. Oral presentation: "Cancer. Is It Forever? Examining the Relationship Between Trauma Centrality and Fear of Cancer Recurrence: A Moderated Mediation Model." APR Conference "Psychology in the Digital Age," Constanța, 2–4 June 2023.
8. Symposium oral presentation: "Exploring Mental Health in Different Phases of Cancer Survival Through the Analysis of Reddit Posts." APR Conference "Psychology in the Digital Age," Constanța, 2–4 June 2023.
9. Oral presentation: "Mental Health at Different Stages of Cancer Survival: A Natural Language Processing Study of Reddit Posts." Nitro Language Processing Hackathon, online, 21–23 March 2023.
10. Invited lecture: "Standardized National Patient Support Programs and the Need for Continued Innovation: The Romanian Example." 28th PanCare Meeting, Budapest, Hungary, 12–14 October 2022.
11. Abstract presentation: "Natural Language Processing as a Tool to Identify the Reddit Particularities of Cancer Survivors Around the Time of Diagnosis and Remission: A Pilot Study." WiNLP 2021 Workshop (Fifth Workshop on Widening Natural Language Processing), 11 November 2021.
12. Poster presentation: "Once a Survivor, Always a Survivor: Using Natural Language Processing to Identify Text Particularities Around the Time of Diagnosis and Remission of Cancer Survivors." 21st WPA World Congress of Psychiatry (virtual congress), 18–21 October 2019.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND DISTINCTIONS

COST Action CA21152 – INE-CSC PhD Fellowship, 2024.

Silver Award, E-Mental Health Hackathon - TherAmi, a conversational agent that transcribes therapy sessions and generates structured clinical notes, March 2021.