

Response to Reviewers for:
 “Real-time assessments of suicidality among Black men: a mixed methods approach”
 PI: Leslie Adams, PhD, MPH
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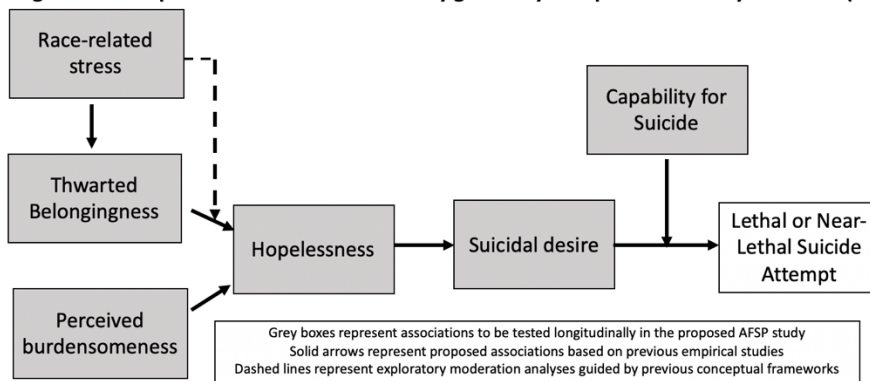
*Excerpted reviewer comments appear in ***bold italics***, responses appear in plain text

We thank the AFSP YIG reviewers for their thoughtful consideration of this applications. We have provided responses to the reviewer critiques below to describe improvements during the AFSP YIG funding period:

1. Consider including all facets of the model and potential factors that may contribute to the model or impact.

Thank you for your comment. Joiner’s interpersonal theory of suicide (ITS), which posits interactive roles of perceived burdensomeness, thwarted belonging, and acquired capacity for suicide in driving suicidal risk, has strong predictive power in adults, but has not yet been tested temporally to assess suicide risk among Black men. Additionally, extant research has shown that race-related stressors, such as racial discrimination and microaggressions, may have a significant effect on suicidality among Black men,¹⁻³ but the temporal, reactive effect of this stressor has not been fully explored in suicide prevention research. To address this reviewer critique and to expand the applicability of this framework, we plan to use an apriori approach in developing our

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of AFSP study guided by Interpersonal Theory of Suicide (ITS)



measures for the ecological momentary assessment adaptation proposed in Aim 2 that includes most components of the ITS framework (Figure 1). Table 1 illustrates additional consideration of the ITS framework and associated validated measures that will be included in our ecological momentary assessment (EMA) smartphone application adaptation (Aim 2). Additionally, we will add a hypothesis to our overall study that those who report active and passive suicidal ideation, when measured via the

EMA application, will increase the likelihood of reporting enhanced capability for suicide. In concert with expanding the measurable aspects of the ITS model, we have enhanced our data safety and monitoring protocol to include a two-tier suicide risk identification system in our EMA protocol, additional training of study personal in Mental Health First Aid, and contact information of participants in the event of referring them to acute mental health crisis resources. Along with this response, we have attached a draft protection of human subjects protocol that will be included in our forthcoming IRB application to Johns Hopkins University.

Table 1: Overview of apriori random-prompt measures and sample items for EMA adaptation based on adapted ITS model (Aim 2)

ITS construct	Scale name	Citation	# of items	Example item
Passive suicidal ideation (PSI)	Paykel Suicide scale (PSS); Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HRSD)	Paykel et al., 1974; Hamilton, 1960 ^{4,5}	5 (PSS); 1(HRSD)	Life is not worth living for me.
Active suicidal ideation (ASI)	Modified Scale for Suicidal Ideation; (MSSI) Beck Scale for Suicidal Ideation (BSSI);	Miller et al. 1986; Beck & Steer, 1991, 1997 ⁶⁻⁸	18 (MSSI); 21(BSSI)	I want to die.
Perceived Burdensomeness	Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire-Perceived Belongness subscale (INQ-PB)	Joiner, 2009; Van Orden, 2008 ^{9,10}	6	I feel like a burden for others
Thwarted Belongness	Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire-Thwarted Belongness Subscale (INQ-TB)	Joiner, 2009; Van Orden, 2008 ⁷	9	I feel like I do not belong
Hopelessness	Beck Hopelessness Scale (BHS)	Beck & Steer 1989 ¹¹	20	My future seems dark to me.
Capability for Suicide	Acquired Capability for Suicide scale (ACSS)	Van Orden et al, 2008 ¹⁰	20	The pain involved in dying frightens me
General stress	Daily Inventory of Stressful Events (DISE)	Almeida et al., 2002 ¹²	7	Did you have an argument or disagreement with someone today?
Race-related Stress	Everyday Discrimination Scale (EDS)	Williams et al, 1997 ¹³	10	I am called names or insulted (due to my race)
Negative Affect	Positive and Negative Affect Scale (PANAS)	Watson et al, 1988 ¹⁴	11	I am lonely

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