

Dr. Mary M. Step holds a doctorate in Communication Studies from Kent State University (1998) and completed postdoctoral training in cancer prevention and control at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (2008). Dr. Step's research has been supported by the American Cancer Society, HRSA and NCI to further her research on improving health communication messaging in clinical, social media, and mobile health contexts. Her work includes observation and evaluation of health communication processes, communication skills training, and development of communication-based interventions to support health outcomes.

She has focused her research on communication during advanced cancer, most recently designing and evaluating an intervention for prognosis discussions during advanced breast cancer. She currently collaborates with Cuyahoga County's MetroHealth Hospital in the design and evaluation of *Positive Peers*, a multifunction smartphone application for supporting young people living with HIV. *Positive Peers* has been ranked as one of the top 10 HIV blogs and websites on the World Wide Web ([www.positivepeers.org](http://www.positivepeers.org)).

Dr. Step is an enthusiastic instructor who has taught a broad array of coursework to undergraduates, graduate students and clinicians. She is also certified by the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University as an Executive Coach. Dr. Step enjoys travel to historic locales, growing her yarn stash and occasionally knitting something. Together, with her husband, she serves three adorable but demanding cats.