

Lesley Adkison received her Master's Degree in Nursing from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and her PhD from Boston College. She has worked in a variety of residential, outpatient and hospital settings with clients across the age span. She has been a faculty member at the Massachusetts Institute of Health Care Professions, acting as a Clinical Instructor for Geriatric and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner students. Additionally, Dr. Adkison has worked in outpatient HIV research settings and as the in-house liaison / Phase IV Clinical Trial Coordinator for a Pharmaceutical company.

For the past eleven years, Dr. Adkison has served as Nurse Director of the Geriatric Unit at McLean Hospital. In addition to providing twenty four hour responsibility and accountability for management of the unit, Dr. Adkison strives to promote an environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and continuous learning. She has been involved in both quantitative and qualitative research projects focused on persons diagnosed with dementia and their family caregivers. Particular areas of interest include pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of agitation and aggression in patients with dementia, staff experiences related to patient aggression and interactions between health care professionals and family caregivers.

Dr. Adkison belongs to a variety of professional organizations including the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, the National Gerontological Nurses' Association, the Gerontological Society of America, The Eastern Nursing Research Society, the American Nurses' Association and the Organization of Nurse Leaders.

Awards include the Judith Fong award for teaching, multiple Partners in Excellence Awards and an award for distinguished alumni from the University of Tennessee.