
**National Hispanic Science Network
Summer Research Training Institute on
Hispanic Drug Abuse
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Presenter Biosketches



Hosted by:
University of Houston
Graduate School of Social Work
Office for Drug and Social Policy Research
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Felipe González Castro, Ph.D.,

is professor of clinical psychology at the Department of Psychology, Arizona State University. He received his masters degree in social work from the UCLA School of Social Welfare in 1976, and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Washington in 1981. Dr. Castro was born in Mexico City, Mexico in 1951, immigrated to the U.S. as a child in 1954, and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1970. Dr. Castro has conducted research in the areas of health promotion and health education with Hispanics and with other ethnic/racial minorities in the U.S. His current work includes the study of the intergenerational (parent-youth) transmission of multiple risk behaviors, including drug abuse and HIV/AIDS risks among Mexican American injection drug-using fathers and their adolescent children. This work examines the inter-related issues involved in the development of a drug-user identity, gender identity (machismo), and ethnic identity, as each relate to drug use and other antisocial behaviors. Dr. Castro has served as a consultant and scientific reviewer for several federal and state agencies. These agencies include: the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Cancer Institute, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

João B. Ferreira-Pinto, Ph.D.,

is currently an Assistant Professor of Behavior Sciences at the University of Texas Houston School of Public Health in El Paso. He received his Ph.D. in cognitive Social Sciences from the University of California Irvine in 1981. His research interests are in the area drug use and addictive behaviors. His latest project examines the determinants of migration among injecting drug users and their relation to the diffusion of blood borne infections among different regions. Currently he is researching the role of social capital and social networks in health prevention – as they relate to drug use, violence, and poverty. Dr. Ferreira-Pinto has experience with the design, implementation, assessment and evaluation of drug prevention programs and HIV/AIDS. He has consulted on the subject for the US Conference of Mayors, CSAP and CSAT, Office of International Health, USAID and other organizations.

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Joseph Frascella, Ph.D.,

was appointed Chief of the Clinical Neurobiology Branch within NIDA's Division of Treatment Research and Development in 1995, where he directs a diverse, national program of extramural research and research training on the biological etiology and clinical neurobiology of drug abuse and addiction. Prior to this position, Dr. Frascella directed NIDA's Pain and Analgesia Program, the Human Neurosciences Program, as well as the research training program within the Division of Basic Research for over seven years. He has been and remains extremely active in issues related to underrepresented minorities and special populations, particularly research training. Before coming to NIDA, Dr. Frascella was a research physiologist at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) in Bethesda, Maryland, where he conducted neurobiological studies on aging and free radical damage. Prior to his position at AFRRI, Dr. Frascella was an Assistant Professor within the Department of Psychology at Brown University, and he conducted research on neural processing within the visual and motor systems. Dr. Frascella received an undergraduate degree in Biopsychology from Hamilton College, and a M.Sc. (1983) and a Ph.D. degree (1985) in Experimental Psychology and Neuroscience from Brown University.

Charles Kaplan, Ph.D.,

is Research Professor at the Graduate School of Social Work and Senior Researcher and Dosement at the European Graduate School of Neuroscience, Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology at the Maastricht University, Netherlands. Dr. Kaplan has extensive research experience as a medical sociologist and social psychologist with a focus on substance abuse, adolescent and child psychiatry and social epidemiology. He has conducted a number of studies that are relevant to the proposed project, including an open cohort study of AIDS and IUDs in the Euro-region Maas-Rhein and the phenomenology of craving in the Dutch national heroin – on- prescription study. Dr. Kaplan will lecture on neuroscience and drug abuse issues and be a discussant in the mock review.

Isaac D. Montoya, Ph.D.,

Is President and Senior Research Scientist at Affiliated Systems Corporation in Houston, Texas. He received his Ph.D. in Health/Counseling Psychology from New Mexico State University in 1993. Dr. Montoya's current research has focused on drug use in an older HIV + population, welfare reform policy and its impact on substance users and partner concordance in reports of joint risk behaviors. His more recent grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse focus on community based research on drug use networks; cocaine use, psychosocial factors and AIDS risk behaviors; and employment dynamics in response to welfare reform. Dr. Montoya is currently a member of the NIH Council (COPR), and NIDA's Health Services Research Initial Review Group.

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Alan Neaigus, Ph.D.,

is a sociologist and is currently a Principal Investigator at National Development and Research Institutes in New York City. He has been engaged in research into drug use and AIDS for 16 years. His research has focused on the relationship of drug users' social and risk networks to their risk of infection with HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C, and on factors associated with the transition to injecting among non-injecting drug users. Among his publications are studies on network and behavioral risk factors for HIV infection among new injectors and trends in the non-injected use of heroin and factors associated with transitions to injecting.

J. Bryan Page, Ph.D.,

Research on people who engage in socially disapproved behaviors has dominated Dr. Page's professional activity for the last three decades. He has studied patterns of marijuana smoking, poly-drug consumption, self-injection, crack use, and sex trade. These studies have relied on a number of methods, including direct observation of risky behaviors, in-depth interviewing of drug users, qualitative analysis of textual materials, focus groups, and laboratory techniques for determining immune status. He has helped to train epidemiologists from six Latin American countries in the study of drug use. He has helped more than a dozen minority scholars become funded investigators. Dr. Page is currently conducting two research studies funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, but he has also received research support from the National Institute of Mental Health. His publications cover diverse topics ranging from consequences of marijuana smoking to use of medications among HIV positive injecting drug users.

Gloria M. Rodriguez, D.S.W.,

is currently Assistant Commissioner, Division of AIDS Prevention and Control, New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services. She received her DSW from the City University of New York, Hunter College Graduate School of Social Work in 1995. Dr. Rodriguez has worked for the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services since 1985. She has directed comprehensive statewide Alcohol, tobacco and Other Drugs Needs Assessment projects funded by the Federal Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. She has also managed, directed and coordinated numerous HIV/AIDS projects. She has also served as a consultant to NIAID, NIDA and CDC on the development of culturally relevant educational materials and dissemination strategies for HIV/AIDS and substance abuse prevention education to community groups.

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Beatrice A. Rouse, M.Ed., Ph.D.,

has over 15 years of experience teaching, research, and publications in public health. Her latest book is *Portrait of Health in the United States: Major Statistical Trends and Guide to Resources*. She is Co-Chair of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Data Council Work Group dealing with Federal policy concerning data collection and reporting efforts on race and ethnicity. Dr. Rouse served on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Public Health*. Currently she teaches graduate courses on the Epidemiology of Substance Abuse, on Research Methodology, and on Organization Development and Change. Dr. Rouse is a member of Delta Omega, the national public health honorary society and is the recipient of several awards including the Public Health Service Special Recognition Award and the Woodrow Wilson Public Service Fellowship.

Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D.,

received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from Rutgers University and his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Miami. He completed his internship training in New York University's Bellevue Medical Center. Dr. Santisteban has led efforts in both the clinical and research arenas in his role as Research Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami Center for Family Studies. In research, Dr. Santisteban is the Principal Investigator of a study using research to create and test culturally relevant psychoeducational modules to be added to family therapy to enhance its effectiveness with Hispanics. Santisteban also serves as Co-PI and Operations Director for a large scale Florida component of the NIDA national Clinical Trials Network, and is a steering committee member for the National Hispanic Science Network. Santisteban has also served as PI and Co-PI on a number of clinical trials testing the efficacy of family and multi-systemic interventions with drug using and behavior problem Hispanic adolescents and in the prevention and treatment drug abuse. Dr. Santisteban has published in the area of family therapy efficacy and on the important role that cultural factors play in treatment and research. This year Dr. Santisteban co-edited the book "Family Psychology: Science-Based Interventions" which highlights the field's best science-based practices. In the clinical arena, Dr. Santisteban has been a co-leader of the Center for Family Studies Externship program for the training of family therapists and is currently a training faculty for the Center for Family Studies Training Institute. Santisteban has also developed special treatment programs for specialized populations

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Michael A. Sesma, Ph.D.,

recently joined the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) as Chief for the Research Scientist Development Program in the Office for Special Populations. He has responsibility for creation and management of a comprehensive program for the development of research scientists in mental health who are from underrepresented groups.

Dr. Sesma received his B.A. in biology and psychology from the University of California, San Diego in 1976, and his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of California, Riverside in 1981. He received postdoctoral training from 1981-1985 in the Departments of Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Psychology at Vanderbilt University. From 1985 to 1994 he was on the faculty at the School of Optometry at the University of Missouri, St. Louis where his research focused on the organization and development of the visual system. In 1990, as a visiting faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry at Washington University Medical School he began a collaboration on studies of the role of glutamate and glutamate receptors in neurodegenerative processes that continued until he joined the NIH. In 1994 Sesma joined the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) at NIH as a Scientific Review Administrator, primarily responsible for the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) Program Review Committee. In 1996 he added the duties of Program Director in the Division of Genetics and Developmental Biology at NIGMS, responsible for the research portfolio in neurogenetics and the genetics of behavior. Dr. Sesma is past treasurer for the HHS and NIH Hispanic Employee Organizations, and has served on a variety of academic and NIH committees including the Society for Neuroscience Committee for Neuroscience Literacy.

Merrill Singer, Ph.D.,

is the Associate Director and Chief of Research at the Hispanic Health Council in Hartford, CT, where he has been employed since 1982, and where he has helped to develop the Research, Risk Reduction, and Environmental Health Units. In addition, he is Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Connecticut Medical School and an affiliate of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS at the Yale University School of Public Health. Dr. Singer has been the Principal Investigator on a continuous series of federally funded drinking, drug use, and AIDS prevention research projects since 1984, and currently is the Principal Investigator on NIDA-funded studies of: 1) the intersection of violence, substance abuse, and AIDS risk among women drug users and 2) social environmental factors in sterile syringe availability and HIV risk among injection drug users. Also, he is the co-Principal Investigator on an on-going study examining pathways to heavy drug use among urban youth.

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José Szapocznik, Ph.D.,

is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Psychology and Counseling Psychology at the University of Miami. Szapocznik is Director of the Center for Family Studies and the Spanish Family Guidance Center, at the University of Miami School of Medicine. The Center for Family Studies is considered the nation's major systematic program of minority family therapy research. Dr. Szapocznik has served on the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Extramural Science Advisory Board, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Advisory Council, the National Institutes of Health Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council and the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention National Advisory Council. He is currently a member of the National Institute on Drug Abuse National Advisory Council. For his groundbreaking contributions in the development and testing of family interventions for poor urban Hispanic families, Szapocznik has received national and international recognition. Szapocznik has over 150 professional publications including a seminal book, Breakthroughs in Family Therapy with Drug-Abusing and Problem Youth. The updated version of this work, Brief Strategic Family Therapy Manual, will be published in the spring of 2002 under the National Institute on Drug Abuse's *Therapy Manuals for Drug Addiction Series*.

Avelardo Valdez, Ph.D.,

is currently Professor at the University of Houston, Graduate School of Social Work and Director of the Office for Drug and Social Policy Research. Dr. Valdez received his MA and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California in Los Angeles. Dr. Valdez has extensive experience as Principal Investigator on several National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) grants. He has also been PI on grants for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). His more recent publications include research among "hidden populations" such as youth gang members, female injecting drug users, and sex workers on the U.S./Mexico border. He has published several articles comparing diverse ethnic and racial groups within the United States giving him an understanding of the importance of cultural differences in substance use and social and health problems otherwise overlooked.

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