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**National Hispanic Science Network  
Summer Research Training Institute on  
Hispanic Drug Abuse  
June 21 – 29, 2003**

**Presenter Biosketches**



Hosted by:  
University of Houston  
Graduate School of Social Work  
Office for Drug and Social Policy Research

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# Presenters' Biosketches

**Ana Anders, L.I.C.S.W.,**

is currently Senior Advisor in the Office of Special Populations, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Mrs. Anders received her Masters in Social Work from the University of Havana in Cuba. Between 1989 and 1997, Mrs. Anders worked at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as Special Assistant to the Director of the Division of Community Prevention and Training and as Special Assistant to the Administrator. Soon after she joined NIDA where she has worked on numerous projects including the creation, development and implementation of the National Institute on Drug Abuse Hispanic Initiative and the Asian American and Pacific Islander Initiative. During the last five years, Mrs. Anders has been recognized by NIDA for her outstanding accomplishments. Her more recent publications and presentations have focused on the delivery of mental health services to minority populations.

**Edwin Barea-Rodriguez, Ph.D.**

is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. As a neurobiologist he has been investigating the underlying cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in aged-related learning and memory deficits. His principal interest is using interventions such as dietary supplementations and caloric restriction to attenuate such deficits. Dr. Barea-Rodriguez is also involved in outreach activities in San Antonio that are geared to help attract minority students toward research careers.

**Alice Cepeda, A.B.D.,**

is working on her Ph.D. in Sociology from the City University of New York, Graduate Center in New York City. She is currently Senior Researcher at the Office for Drug and Social Policy Research (ODSPR), Graduate School of Social Work, University of Houston. At the ODSPR, she is project director of a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) funded study focused on non-injecting heroin use in San Antonio, Texas. In addition, she is working on completing her dissertation which focuses on injecting drug use and high-risk sexual behavior among sex workers on the U.S. / Mexico border. Her publications with ODSPR faculty have been in the areas of substance use, violence, and high-risk sexual behavior in the Mexican American community.

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**Richard C. Cervantes, Ph.D.,** received his PhD. in Psychology from Oklahoma State University. He served as Research Psychologist at UCLA's Spanish Speaking Mental Health Research Center (1984-89), and more recently held a full-time faculty appointment in the USC School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences (1990-1995). He has evaluated a number of community based prevention programs, including two Community Partnership Prevention Programs funded by the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. Dr. Cervantes has served or currently serves on a number of national level advisory groups and committees. He has published well over two dozen scientific journal articles as well over a dozen book chapters relevant to Hispanic/Latino youth, family, mental health, and health issues. He is the editor of *Substance Abuse and Gang Violence* (1992 - Sage Publication). Finally, Dr. Cervantes has served as an expert witness to the courts on issues related to Hispanic families, drug and alcohol abuse, cultural risk factors including immigration/acclturation stress, and juvenile gangs.

**Wilson M. Compton, M.D., M.P.E.,** is the Director of the Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse. He came to NIDA from Washington University in Saint Louis where he was an Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Director of the Master in Psychiatric Epidemiology Program and Medical Director of the addiction programs. Dr. Compton received his undergraduate education from Amherst College. He attended medical school and completed his residency training in psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine. Most recently, he received a masters degree in psychiatric epidemiology from Washington University in 1997. He is board certified in psychiatry with added qualifications in addiction psychiatry. He is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society as well as numerous professional organizations. He has been the principal or co-principal investigator of six federally-funded grants and has published over 50 articles, 10 chapters, and several diagnostic interviews, including serving as "guest editor" of special issues of Drug and Alcohol Dependence and the International Review of Psychiatry. Dr. Comptons areas of focus include developing better ways to assess and treat psychiatric disorders among drug abusers and how such psychiatric comorbidity impacts treatment and HIV risk behaviors.

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**Mario De La Rosa, Ph.D.,**

is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work, College of Health and Urban Affairs at Florida International University. Before joining FIU, Dr. De La Rosa was a visiting Research Professor at Boston University's School of Social Work and a Senior Health Science Administrator with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Dr. De La Rosa has been conducting research on Latino substance abuse, violence, delinquency, and intercultural relations for more than fifteen years. He recently edited and published a book entitled "Conducting Drug Abuse Research with Minority Populations: Advances and Issues" (1998) and in 1993 co-edited a NIDA research monograph entitled "Drug Abuse Among Minority Youth: Methodological Issues and Recent Research Advances." In addition, Dr. De La Rosa has also published numerous scientific papers on the etiology of drug use with Latino populations and the substance abuse/violence connections.

**Maria Felix-Ortiz, Ph.D.,**

obtained her doctorate in clinical psychology from UCLA in 1993. She is currently on the psychology faculty of Florida International University, a mental health advice columnist for the San Antonio Express-News, and a charter member of NIDA's National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse. Her research interests are in the etiology and prevention of drug use and abuse, especially among Latino youth; cultural factors in drug use; and in the use of assisted mutual support groups to extend mental health services and staff support. She has held faculty positions at USC and UCLA; and was a research associate for the Hispanic Research Center at University of Texas, San Antonio. She has received grants from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes, the NIDA, and the Ford

Foundation. Her research has earned several awards including the APA Tanaka Honorable Mention and UCLA Department of Psychology Gengerelli Award. She has also worked clinically at University of California, San Francisco, with a variety of populations including HIV-infected, psychiatrically-ill substance abusers and gang-affiliated Latino youth. Her recent publications appear in the *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Journal of Community Psychology*.

**Bennett W. Fletcher, Ph.D.,**

is currently on detail to the Analytic Unit in the Office of the Director of the Division of Epidemiology, Services, and Prevention Research. He served as Chief of NIDA's Services Research Branch from 1996 to 2001, where he directed the program of health services research on drug abuse treatment, including research on the effectiveness of drug abuse treatment and research to study the impact of the organization, financing, and management of health services on the quality, cost, access to, and outcomes of treatment for drug abuse disorders.

Recently, Dr. Fletcher has led initiatives to support research in drug treatment financing and economics, on the organization and management of treatment services, and on treating vulnerable populations, including adolescents, women, and those at risk for HIV infection. He has developed research programs on drug abuse treatment for those in the criminal justice system and recently developed a cooperative study on integrating drug abuse treatment in the criminal justice system. He is an investigator on the cooperative Drug Abuse Treatment Outcome Studies (DATOS).

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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 program of extramural research and research training on the clinical neurobiology and biological etiology 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 studies on aging and free radical damage. Prior to this position, Dr. Frascella was an Assistant Professor at Brown University, and he conducted research on both the visual and motor systems.

**Cynthia A. Gómez, Ph.D.,** is Co-Director of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine. Prior to coming to CAPS, Dr. Gómez spent twelve years working in community health settings, including five years as director of a child and family mental health center in Boston. Currently, she works on research projects geared primarily towards HIV/AIDS prevention interventions for diverse populations including: women, HIV-sero-discordant couples, HIV-positive gay men, HIV-positive injection drug users, Latinos, and middle school children. She has served on several national committees including the CDC's HIV & STD Advisory Council, NIDA's National Hispanic Science Network, and SAMHSA's Advisory Committee on Women's Services. She currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Alan Guttmacher Institute. Dr. Gómez was also appointed to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS under the Clinton Administration and most recently served as an appointed member to the Bush Administration's Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

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**Felipe González Castro, M.S.W., Ph.D.,**

is Professor of clinical psychology in the Department of Psychology, Arizona State University. Dr. Castro's research areas include the study of "deeper" aspects of racial/ethnic minority cultures within the United States, as these aspects relate to prevention science. The ongoing tension between adherence to universal principles of prevention science and cultural competence in their application to diverse and culturally-unique sub-populations, serves as a core challenge in his research. Dr. Castro's work focuses on two major areas in the field of drug abuse: the measurement of cultural variables, and via model analysis, understanding the relationship of these cultural variables to health-related outcomes, i.e., as predictors, moderators or mediators; and the study of intervention adaptation to improve the intervention's cultural relevance and its effectiveness when applied with members of special sub-populations, including Hispanics/Latinos, and other racial/ethnic or cultural groups.

**Charles D. Kaplan, Ph.D.,**

is Research Professor at the Graduate School of Social Work and Senior Researcher at the European Graduate School of Neuroscience, Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology at the Maastricht University, Netherlands. He received his Ph.D. from UCLA. 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. Dr. Kaplan has functioned as a Co-Principal Investigator on NIDA and European Commission research grants on community drug abuse epidemiology and treatment. He has worked as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Rutgers University and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He serves on the advisory board of the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.

**Alberto G. Mata, Jr., Ph.D.,**

is currently Professor in the Department of Human Relations at the University of Oklahoma. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in 1978. Dr. Mata has served as a staff member on the Presidential Commission on HIV Epidemic. His work with the Department of Health and Human Services, first at the Office of Substance Abuse and Prevention, and later with the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), focused on national and state policies for stimulating and promoting community-based demonstration and applied research studies. Dr. Mata has served and continues to serve on various federal planning groups, grants, and workgroups. Recently, Dr. Mata has served as the General Editor of *Free Inquiry in Creative Sociology*. He is also Special Editor on an issue of the *Journal of Border Health* focused on violence and borderland communities. He remains involved in border health and substance abuse issues and recently elected research affiliate to UT/WHO Hogg Foundation's Mental Health workgroup. His efforts to promote cooperative and collaborative research and service demonstration projects are reflected in his research, teaching, consulting and professional organization appointments.

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**Cecilia McNamara, Ph.D.,**

is developing and implementing research grant programs related to psychotherapy and behavioral treatment with an emphasis on adult drug users including dual diagnosis and criminal justice involved populations. Most recently she developed an initiative to modify existing efficacious treatments to improve their acceptability to community treatment programs. In addition she represents DTR&D on the NIDA Criminal Justice Workgroup and Women and Gender Workgroup. Previously she was employed as an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where she was project director for a NIDA funded drug treatment research program. This program integrated a novel outpatient day treatment program focused on systematic goal attainment with abstinence contingencies for housing and work.

**Richard A. Millstein, J.D.,**

is Deputy Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). He has been instrumental in planning, developing, and implementing NIDA's programs in basic, clinical, epidemiological, and applied scientific research aimed at reducing the burden of drug abuse. Mr. Millstein has served in a variety of roles throughout his career in government service, including a dual role as both Principal Advisor to the Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Liaison on drug demand-reduction activities. He is a recognized expert in the legal, ethical, and policy areas of mental health and addictive disorders. Mr. Millstein has authored and edited a number of key articles on a variety of public health issues. He has twice received the Presidential Executive Rank Award, the highest performance award bestowed on career civil servants.

**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 positive 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.

**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.

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**J. Bryan Page, Ph.D.,**

is currently Professor and Chair of the Anthropology Department at the University of Miami. 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.

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

received a Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Social Psychology from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. She also was a Fellow in the Public Health Service Cardiovascular Epidemiology Training Program. Dr. Rouse has over 15 years of experience teaching, research, and publications in public health. Dr. Rouse served on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Public Health*. She has over 50 scientific publications, books, and monographs. Dr. Rouse presently serves on a variety of Inter Agency Task Forces and Presidential Initiatives. 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 efforts on race and ethnicity. She served on the Data Work Group for the Presidential Initiative to Eliminate Health Disparities Among Racial and Ethnic Groups and has served on the Presidential Health Care Reform Task Force's Work Group on Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

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**Delia Saldaña, Ph.D.,**

is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. She has developed several community based research projects examining mental health issues that are impacted by ethnicity, poverty, and culture in South Texas. She has also addressed the importance of cultural competency and participated in training mental health service providers, primary care providers, and pharmacists in effective methods of service delivery. A widely distributed manual "Cultural Competency for Mental Health Providers" has received many acclaims, and she recently produced a follow-up training manual on cultural competency for program planners and supervisors. Dr Saldaña also recruits and trains students from South Texas in mental health research, and is conducting a needs assessment of mental health services along the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

**Michael A. Sesma, Ph.D.,**

joined the National Institute of Mental Health as Chief of the Research Scientist Development Program in the Office for Special Populations. He has responsibility for creation and management of the comprehensive program for the development of research scientist in mental health who are from underrepresented groups. Dr. Sesma received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside in 1981. He received postdoctoral training from 1981-1985 at the Departments of Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Psychology at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Sesma 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 Director of Research at the Hispanic Health Council in Hartford, CT. 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 the intersection of violence, substance abuse, and AIDS risk among women drug users and the social environmental factors in sterile syringe availability and HIV risk among injection drug users, and a CDC funded study of health consequences of emergent drug use.

Additionally, Dr. Singer serves as a co-Investigator on both a new study of syringe sharing among injection drug users in Guandong, China as well as a new study designed to investigate an effective Hepatitis B vaccination regime among active injection drug users. Over the last 4 years, Dr. Singer has served as a national evaluator on Project RARE through the U.S. Health and Human Services' Office of HIV/AIDS Policy and is continuing work this year for the Global Program on AIDS of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (in Brazil and Vietnam). He has over 150 articles published in health and social science journals and is author/co-author or editor of a number of books.

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**Stacey Stevens, Ph.D.,**

is Director of Research and Evaluation at the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Dr. Stevens received her Ph.D. in Health Systems Planning from Texas A&M University and has been involved with research on substance use and behavior change since 1998. At TCADA she conducts research and evaluation to determine client treatment outcomes, provider performance, and results of prevention efforts. She has served as a co-investigator and investigator for grant projects and has published research in peer-reviewed journals, the most recent to appear this year in *Addictive Behaviors*. She is co-author of the State of Texas' Adolescent Tobacco Curriculum and is a member of the Texas Tobacco Evaluation Workgroup, which is responsible for coordinating and conducting evaluation and quantitative analysis of projects funded by state tobacco dollars.

**Keith Trujillo, Ph.D.,**

is Professor of Psychology and Associate Director of the Office for Biomedical Research and Training at California State University San Marcos. Dr. Trujillo received an Associate of Arts degree in Biological Sciences from Shasta College, Bachelors degrees in Biological Sciences, Psychology and Chemistry from California State University, Chico, and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of California, Irvine. Following completion of his doctorate he worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow and a Research Investigator at The University of Michigan Mental Health Research Institute. Dr. Trujillo is a neuroscientist and psychopharmacologist with a longstanding interest in the

neural basis of drug abuse and addiction. He has performed laboratory research on drug reward, tolerance, sensitization and physical dependence, among other areas. In addition to his laboratory research, Dr. Trujillo has strong interests in Hispanic issues, in increasing diversity in science and academia, and in training the next generation of scientists.

**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 and Prevention (CDC) and 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 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.