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**National Hispanic Science Network  
Summer Research Training Institute on  
Hispanic Drug Abuse  
June 1 – 8, 2004**

**Presenter Biosketches**



NATIONAL  
HISPANIC  
SCIENCE  
NETWORK  
ON DRUG ABUSE

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. 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, she 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.

**Richard C. Cervantes, Ph.D.,**

received his Ph.D. 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/acculturation stress, and juvenile gangs.

**Dharma E. Cortés, Ph.D.**

is senior research associate at the Mauricio Gastón Institute and a clinical instructor at Harvard Medical School's Department of Psychiatry. Her research focuses on culture, acculturation, and access to health care and mental health services among Latinos. Dr. Cortés is also with Cambridge Health Alliance and the Health Literacy Studies Group at the Harvard School of Public Health. She is also faculty adviser to H.E.A.L.T.H. NOW!, a health literacy project that trains and places Harvard Medical, Dental, and Public Health students in ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages) to teach about health issues. For the last fifteen years, she has conducted community-based research on the study of culture, acculturation, migration experience, and mental health among Puerto Ricans and other Latinos in New York City. Recently, she has expanded her research to include the study of general health and access to health care as well as health literacy among Latinos residing in Massachusetts and New York.

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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.

**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).

**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 Radio-biology 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.

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**Philip Garcia, Ph.D.,**

is Director of Analytic Studies, with the California State University System, Chancellor's Office since 1986. In 2002, Dr. Garcia returned to the Chancellor's Office, following three years dedicated to helping Notre Dame faculty establish that university's Institute for Latino Research. During his three-year stay at Notre Dame, Dr. Garcia was the research director for all extramural projects, and he authored *Understanding Obstacles and Barriers to Hispanic Baccalaureates*, a project-report sponsored by the Hispanic Scholarship Foundation. He also taught sociology and coordinated the activities of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research, a 16-member consortium of university-based think tanks. Dr. Garcia held research and teaching appointments at the University of Michigan and the University of Southern California. Dr. Garcia has published work on the efficacy of student-retention programs and on how to project enrollments at public colleges and universities. Dr. Philip Garcia has published articles on the unemployment record and earning power of certain segments of the Latino labor force, as well as ethnic settlement patterns in Los Angeles County. Dr. Garcia received his bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton, and earned a Ph.D. in mathematical sociology from UCLA.

**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 sensitivity and competence in their application to diverse 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: (1) the measurement of cultural variables, and via multivariate model analysis, understanding their relationships to health-related outcomes, i.e., as predictors, moderators or mediators; and (2) the study of intervention adaptation to improve the intervention's cultural relevance and effectiveness when applied with members of special sub-populations, including Hispanics/Latinos, and other racial/ethnic or cultural groups.

**Jo Anne Grunbaum, Ed.D.**

is the Team Leader of the Surveillance Research Team, Division of Adolescence and School Health, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Grunbaum's research activities focus on the health of youth with specific interest in determinants of risk behaviors and health outcomes. At CDC, Dr. Grunbaum serves as the Project Officer for the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System and for Healthy Passages, a longitudinal study to identify the determinants of health behaviors and health outcomes. Prior to coming to CDC, Dr. Grunbaum was Principal Investigator of several research projects and served as Project Director of the study "Precursors of CVD Risk Factors; Project HeartBeat!" a longitudinal study that enrolled children ages 8, 11, and 14 and assessed CVD risk factors three times each year for four years. Dr. Grunbaum has 17 years experience in design and implementation of research related to the health of children and adolescents. Jo Anne Grunbaum, Ed.D. received a bachelor's degree in Nursing in 1971 and a Master's degree in Education in 1978 from the State University of New York at Buffalo. In 1987, she received a doctorate in Health Education from the University of Houston.

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**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.

**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.

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**Arnold Mills, M.S.W.,**

is currently Acting Chief in the Epidemiology Research Branch of the Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse and has worked in the drug abuse field for the past 20 years. His areas of interest are gangs and crime, educational and occupational attainment, and health disparities and vulnerable populations. In this capacity, he is responsible for the development of a research portfolio focusing on the influence of social and cultural factors within drug user populations. He seeks to build a research programs that explores the impact of social and cultural factors on the etiology of drug use, drug use patterns and their implications for adverse health and behavioral consequences among drug users. Previously, he was responsible for a research portfolio focusing on the social and behavioral consequences of drug abuse with a special emphasis on racial and ethnic minority populations. He has worked to expand the pool of minority scientists involved in NIDA supported programs. He has also provided oversight for a number of community-based HIV/AIDS preventions research projects directed at injecting drug users. His other experiences include the development of a network of drug abuse prevention programs and work to strengthen the national drug abuse treatment services system previously supported by NIDA.

**Alan Neaigus, Ph.D.,**

is Deputy Director of the Institute for International Research on Youth at Risk and a Principal Investigator at National Development and Research Institutes in New York City, as well as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia University. Over the past several years he has conducted research on HIV/AIDS and related infectious diseases, among injecting and non-injecting drug users, focusing 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. His current research includes studies on the neighborhood and network context of HIV risk among young drug users in New York City, transitions to injecting among Mexican and Mexican-American heroin users in San Antonio, Texas, as well as research on young drug users in Marseilles, France and in Budapest, Hungary.

**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.

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**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.

**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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**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.

**William A. Vega, Ph.D.,**

is Professor of Psychiatry at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School-University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He is also Director, Research Division, Behavioral Research and Training Institute, University Behavioral Health Care. Dr. Vega has conducted field and clinical research projects on health, mental health, and substance abuse in various regions of the United States and Latin America. His specialty is comparative epidemiologic and services research with Latino adolescents and adults. He has published over 135 articles and chapters on these topics, in addition to several books. In 2002, Dr. Vega was awarded the Culture, Community, and Prevention Science Award by the Society for Prevention Research, and the National Award of Excellence in Research by a Senior Scientist by the National Hispanic Science Network. Dr. Vega is President of the National Latino Council on Tobacco and Alcohol Prevention, and a founding member of the International Consortium of Psychiatric Epidemiology of the World Health Organization, and member of the Institute of Medicine- Board of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, and a member of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Advisory Group for Health Policy Scholars.