
**National Hispanic Science Network
Summer Research Training Institute
on Hispanic Drug Abuse
June 10 - 17, 2005**

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

National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse

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.

Hector Manuel Colón Jordan, Ph.D.,

is Co-Director for Research of the Center for Addiction Studies and in 1994 he received an appointment as Assistant Professor at the School of Medicine of the Universidad Central del Caribe. Héctor Colón has a Masters in Social Theory from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and a Ph. D. in Epidemiology from the University of Miami. From 1986 until 1993 Dr. Colon directed the Research Institute of the Puerto Rico Department of Anti Addiction Services. Dr. Colón has conducted studies of HIV risk behaviors among drug users, epidemiological studies of drug use in Puerto Rico, as well as evaluation studies of drug prevention and treatment programs.

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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Antonio L. Estrada, Ph.D.,

is Professor of Public Health and Mexican American Studies and Director of the Mexican American Studies & Research Center at the University of Arizona. Dr. Estrada received his masters and doctorate degrees in Public Health, graduating from the UCLA School of Public Health in 1986. Dr. Estrada's primary interests are in Hispanic and Native American health, focused on health promotion and disease prevention within these populations. Dr. Estrada has numerous publications and presentations in the areas of HIV/AIDS and health, with a co-authored book on Mexican American health published by the University of Arizona Press (*Mexican Americans and Health: Sana! Sana!*). Dr. Estrada was the principal investigator of a five-year study, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), to develop, implement and assess a culturally innovative HIV/AIDS risk reduction program targeting Mexican-origin Hispanic drug injectors and their female sexual partners in Tucson (One To One Program). Dr. Estrada has also been a principal investigator for several other NIDA funded research studies including the National AIDS Demonstration Research (NADR) study, the NIDA Cooperative Agreement, a Native American supplement on HIV/AIDS, and an HIV/AIDS risk reduction project on the U.S.-Mexico border. Dr. Estrada also teaches Hispanic health, cultural competency, and sociocultural epidemiology courses at the University of Arizona and the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.

Maria Felix-Ortiz, Ph.D.,

is 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 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 at San Antonio. She has received grants from the John 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 the 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 recently appointed as the Director of the Division of Clinical Neuroscience, Development, and Behavioral Treatment and previously served as Chief of the Clinical Neurobiology Branch since 1995 within National Institute on Drug Abuse. He directs a large national program of extramural research and research training on the clinical neurobiology and biological etiology of drug abuse and addiction. Prior to these appointments, 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.

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.

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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.

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 Neuro-psychology 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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Charles R. Martinez Jr., Ph.D.,

is a Research Scientist on several OSLC and Oregon Prevention Research Center (OPRC) projects. He is the principal investigator on the NIDA-funded Latino Youth and Family Empowerment (LYFE) Project. He also directs OPRC's Latino Research Team in collaboration with other OSLC scientists and partners from Centro Latino Americano and the local Latino community. He also acts as a co-investigator on an intervention project for incarcerated parents being developed in partnership with the Oregon Department of Corrections. His clinical and research interests center largely on identifying factors that promote healthy adjustment of families and children following stressful life events (such as changes in family structure, socioeconomic status, physical and/or emotional health, and immigration status), taking into consideration the cultural contexts in which families operate. He is interested in developing OSLC theory and intervention models for multicultural relevance. Charles is a licensed psychologist

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.

Isaac D Montoya, Ph.D., C.M.C., C.L.S.,

is President and Senior Research Scientist at Affiliated Systems Corporation in Houston, Texas and is also a clinical professor in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Houston. 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 HIV/AIDS risk behaviors; and employment dynamics in response to welfare reform. Dr. Montoya was a member of the NIH Council (COPR), and NIDA's Health Services Research Initial Review Group.

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.

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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.

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.

Yonette F. Thomas, Ph.D.

is a medical sociologist/social epidemiologist, with postgraduate training in demography and epidemiology. Before NIDA, Dr. Thomas served as a study director at the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council and held teaching and research faculty positions at American University and Howard University. Dr. Thomas' primary and secondary research included HIV/AIDS risk and prevention behavior among minority women, implications of underlying versus multiple-cause of death for preventive health behavior using the 1986 National Mortality Follow Back Survey, migration patterns and the spread of disease in particular HIV/AIDS, and issues affecting social bonds between the aged and their families. In addition, process and impact evaluations of research demonstration projects focusing on family support, youth opportunities, high-risk youth, and communities at risk, including ethnographic surveys and qualitative fieldwork. Her research interests are the social epidemiology of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, gene-environment interactions, and the effects of cumulative disadvantage on health behavior. Dr. Thomas' program area covers: Effect of cumulative disadvantage at the individual, family (including biologic and genetic), and community level on risk and protection; intergenerational effects, including gene-environment interactions; long-term consequences of poor health behaviors, drug abuse and HIV; Role of social contexts (e.g., family and households, religious institutions, work places, neighborhoods and communities, geographic location, residential segregation) in drug abuse and HIV risk and protection; and Drug abuse and HIV risk among older adults, minority women in particular; intersection of biology, chronic disease, and drug abuse.

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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.