

MEET THE AUTHORS: Confronting Inequities in Latino Health Care

Michael A. Rodríguez, MD – Guest Editor and Author, Perceived quality of care, receipt of preventive care, and usual source of health care among undocumented and other Latinos.



Michael A. Rodríguez is a Professor, Vice Chair for Research and George F. Kneller Endowed Chair in the Department of Family Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He is Co-Director of the Network for Multicultural Research on Health and Healthcare. His research activities focus on injury and violence prevention, patient-provider communication of sensitive issues, and the impact of ethnicity and socioeconomic status on health problems. Rodríguez reviews and conducts research, works with community-based violence prevention programs, and develops policy on violence prevention. He has consulted for the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Institute of Medicine. Dr. Rodríguez trains fellows, family medicine residents, graduate and undergraduate students while continuing to see patients at a local community health center. Rodríguez completed his

undergraduate training at the University of California, Berkeley, received his medical degree from UCLA School of Medicine, and is a graduate of UC San Francisco Family Medicine Residency Program and John Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Contact info

UCLA Department of Family Medicine; 10880 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1800; Los Angeles, CA 90024; Ph: (310) 794-0394
Fax: (310) 794-6097; MRodriguez@mednet.ucla.edu

William A. Vega, PhD – Guest Editor and Author, Effects of health insurance on perceived quality of care among Latinos in the United States



William Vega is a Professor of Family Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine, and Associate Vice Chancellor at UCLA, and an elected member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academies of Science. He 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 multi cultural epidemiologic and services research with adolescents and adults, work that has been funded by multiple public and private sources. He has published over 170 articles and chapters on these topics, in addition to several books. Dr. Vega was cited in ISIHighlyCited.com Web of Science in 2006 in the top one-half of one percent of most highly cited researchers in the social science literature world-wide. In 2002, he was awarded the Culture,

Community, and Prevention Science Award by the Society for Prevention Research, and the National Award for Excellence in Research by a Senior Scientist by the National Hispanic Science Network. He is the president of the National Latino Council on Tobacco and Alcohol Prevention, and a founding member of the International Consortium of Psychiatry Epidemiology of the World Health Organization, and a member of the Institute of Medicine- Board of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, and a member of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation National Advisory Group for Health Policy Scholars, and currently Chair of the IOM Health Inequities Roundtable.

Contact info

UCLA Department of Family Medicine; 10880 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1800; Los Angeles, CA 90024; Ph: (310) 794-8493; Fax: (310) 794-6097; wvega@mednet.ucla.edu

Anne Beal, MD – Author, Latino access to the patient-centered medical home



Anne C. Beal, M.D., M.P.H., is dedicated to improving health care in the US, particularly for vulnerable patient groups. Her career is devoted to providing access to high quality health care and has included delivering healthcare services, teaching, research, public health, and philanthropy. Dr. Beal is president of the Aetna Foundation, the independent charitable and philanthropic arm of Aetna Inc. The Foundation helps build healthy communities by promoting volunteerism, forming partnerships and funding initiatives that improve the health and quality of life across the US. Dr. Beal holds a B.A. from Brown University, an M.D. from Cornell University Medical College, and an M.P.H. from Columbia University. She completed her internship, residency, and NRSA fellowship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

Contact info

Anne Beal, MD, MPH; President, Aetna Foundation; 151 Farmington Ave.; RC31; Hartford, CT 06156; 860.273.4016; BealA@aetna.com

Andrea Bersamin, PhD – Author, Predictors of hypertension awareness, treatment, and control among Mexican American women and men



Andrea Bersamin, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the Center for Alaska Native Health Research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her research interests focus around the design and evaluation of chronic disease prevention programs tailored to the specific needs of underserved populations. She is particularly interested in the health of indigenous communities. Dr. Bersamin received her PhD in Nutrition from the University of California, Davis and bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention at the Stanford Prevention Research Center. Her current research focuses on examining socio-ecological determinants of dietary patterns and weight among Alaska Natives living in rural remote communities during the transition from adolescence to young adulthood.

Contact info

Center for Alaska Native Health Research; University of Alaska Fairbanks; 234 Arctic Health Research Building; 907/474-6129; 907/474-5700 (f); abersamin@alaska.edu

Marilyn Winkleby, PhD – Author, Predictors of hypertension awareness, treatment, and control among Mexican American women and men



Marilyn Winkleby is a Professor of Medicine and Faculty Director of the Office of Community Health at Stanford University School of Medicine. Her research combines epidemiologic study with intervention research to further the understanding of social determinants of health. Her work has focused on: 1) cardiovascular disease health behaviors, risk factors and outcomes (smoking, physical inactivity, poor nutrition, obesity, diabetes, hypertension); health status of ethnic minority and low socioeconomic groups; and community-based intervention studies. She has received numerous NIH and other Federal and State grants, and has published over 100 articles in public health, epidemiology, and medical journals.

Contact info

Stanford Prevention Research Center; Medical School Office Building (MSOB); 251 Campus Drive MC 5411, Room 318 Stanford, CA 94305-5411; Phone: (650) 723-7055; FAX: (650) 725-6247; winkleby@stanford.edu

Hector M. González, PhD – Author, Diabetes awareness and knowledge among Latinos: does a usual source of healthcare matter?



Hector M. González, PhD is an assistant professor of family medicine and public health sciences and gerontology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He is also a faculty associate in the Program for Research on Black Americans at the University of Michigan. He is a neuroepidemiologist and psychiatric epidemiologist with clinical and research training in neuropsychology and epidemiology. His work is focused on the health and aging of Latinos. In addition, Dr. González examines healthcare utilization among Latinos, with a focus on US Mexicans. He developed the acculturation-health hypothesis to enhance understanding of Latino health across the lifecourse.

Contact info

Wayne State University, Institute of Gerontology & Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences, 87 East Ferry Street, 226 Knapp Building, Room 234, Detroit, MI 48202; (313) 577-2297; hmgonzalez@med.wayne.edu

Margarita Alegría, PhD – Author, The role of patient activation on patient–provider communication and quality of care for US and foreign born Latino patients



Margarita Alegría, PhD, is the director of the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research (CMMHR) at the Cambridge Health Alliance. She is a professor of psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and currently serves as the principal investigator of three National Institutes of Health-funded research studies. Dr. Alegría’s published work focuses on the improvement of health care services delivery for diverse racial and ethnic populations, conceptual and methodological issues with multicultural populations, and ways to bring the community’s perspective into the design and implementation of health services. Dr. Alegría also conducts research that will contribute to an understanding of the factors influencing service disparities, and testing interventions aimed at reducing

disparities for ethnic and racial minority groups. Dr. Alegría received the 2003 Mental Health Section Award of the American Public Health Association, the 2006 Greenwood Award for Research Excellence, and the 2007 Latino Mental Health Scientific Leadership Award from New York Medical School. In 2008, she received the Carl Taube Award, from the Mental Health Section of the American Public Health Association. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine’s Public Health Board and recently finished a term as chair of Academy Health.

Contact info

120 Beacon Street - 4th floor; Somerville, MA 02143; malegría@charesearch.org; (617) 503-8447

William Sribney, MS – Author, The role of patient activation on patient–provider communication and quality of care for US and foreign born Latino patients



William Sribney is Vice President of Third Way Statistics. He holds an MS in Biostatistics (1992) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a biostatistician who works with biomedical, epidemiological, and genetics researchers. He is also a professional developer of commercial statistical software. He currently works as a consulting statistician and part-time as a statistical software developer at Third Way Statistics. He has special expertise in the selection and development of data measures, the analysis of complex survey data, and in the development of software for performing these analyses. For the past five years, Mr. Sribney has worked extensively

analyzing results from national health surveys, with special focus on the health of Latinos and other minority populations in the US, and has co-authored 14 publications in this area in during this period.

Contact info

67 Oxford Drive P.O Box 14; White Lake, NY 12786-0014 bill@thirdwaystat.com; (845) 583-4088

Carlos A. Reyes-Ortiz, MD, PhD – Author, The role of spirituality healing with perceptions of the medical encounter among Latinos



Carlos A. Reyes-Ortiz, MD, PhD is an Associate Professor at the Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences, School of Public Health from 2008. He was before a Faculty at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas. He received his MD degree in 1982, and residency training in Family Medicine in 1987 at the University of Valle in Cali, Colombia. He obtained geriatrics fellowship trainings in Spain (1987-88), and the US (1994-96). He was a Faculty at the Department of Family Medicine in his university in Colombia, and created a geriatric medicine program. He completed a PhD in Preventive Medicine and Community Health, at the UTMB (2002-05), focused in aging and cancer health disparities. His research interests include religiosity, falls, fear of falling, depression and cognitive impairment in the elderly. Also, the effect of neighborhood characteristics on cancer among Hispanics, disparities related to cancer screening, and the relationship between acculturation, diet, and cancer among Hispanics.

Contact info

Carlos A. Reyes-Ortiz, MD, PhD; Associate Professor; Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences, School of Public Health University of North Texas Science Center (EAD-711B) 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard Forth Worth, Texas 76107-2699; (817)735-5136; creyes@hsc.unt.edu

Kyriakos Markides, PhD – Author, The role of spirituality healing with perceptions of the medical encounter among Latinos



Kyriakos S. Markides, PhD. is the Annie and John Gnitzinger Distinguished Professor of Aging and Director of the Division of Sociomedical Sciences, Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Dr. Markides is the Editor of the *Journal of Aging and Health* which he founded in 1989. He is the author or co-author of over 280 publications most of which are on aging and health issues in the Mexican American population as well as minority aging issues in general. He is currently Principal Investigator of the Hispanic EPESE (Established Population for the Epidemiological Study of the Elderly), a longitudinal study of the health of older Mexican Americans from the five Southwestern states.

Contact info

University of Texas Medical Branch; 700 Harborside Drive, Room 1.128; Galveston, TX 77555-1153; 409/772-2551

Debra J. Perez, PhD, MPA, MA – Author, Effects of health insurance on perceived quality of care among Latinos in the United States



Debra Joy Pérez, Ph.D., M.P.A., M.A., is a senior program officer in Research and Evaluation at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is responsible for the Foundation's work on public health and management of programs that focus on increasing the diverse perspectives that inform the Foundation's grantmaking. As national program director for *New Connections: Increasing Diversity of RWJF Programming*, Pérez also works with historically underrepresented investigators and identifies opportunities to link this new talent to the Foundation's work across health and health care research areas. Since joining the Foundation in October 2004, Pérez also has been responsible for program development in research and evaluation in the areas of racial/ethnic disparities, fellows and scholars programs in evaluation and research, research in Latino and minority health and health care issues and public health research. She began her career in philanthropy in 1998, when she became deputy director for New Jersey Health Initiatives, a program office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Her current research focuses on racial/ethnic disparities in health and health care. She has a particular focus on discrimination and how sociocultural factors such as acculturation impact immigrant and nonimmigrant health and health care experiences. Pérez completed her interfaculty doctoral program at Harvard University in 2005, and received a Ph.D. in health policy. She received an M.A. in social science and women's studies from the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, in 1993. She received the National Urban and Rural Fellows award leading to her M.P.A. from Baruch College, City University of New York, where she graduated with honors. Pérez graduated from Douglass College with a B.A. in communications.

Contact info

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Route 1 & College Road East; Princeton, NJ 08543; (609) 627-5966; (609) 419-8300(fax); dperez@rwjf.org

Alfonso Ang, PhD – Author, Effects of health insurance on perceived quality of care among Latinos in the United States



Alfonso Ang, PhD is the project statistician. He has been involved in developing methodology for statistical research on health behavior change and program evaluation in several community-based intervention programs. Some of the research projects that he had been involved with include behavioral interventions designed to reduce STD/HIV, mental health issues and substance abuse, medication adherence and health promotion, analysis of behavioral and mental health managed care insurance claims, clinical trials on improving adherence to treatment protocols, study of the relationship between neighborhood characteristics and health for persons with chronic conditions, and intimate partner violence among Latinas.

Contact info

UCLA Department of Family Medicine; 10880 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1800; Los Angeles, CA 90024; Ph: (310) 794-0797; Fax: (310) 794-6097; aang@mednet.ucla.edu

Arturo Vargas-Bustamante – Author, Heterogeneity in health insurance coverage among US Latino adults



Arturo Vargas Bustamante is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Services at the UCLA School of Public Health. His areas of expertise are health care disparities and health services in developing countries. His work in health care disparities focuses on population groups that are overwhelmingly uninsured or that have poor access to health care, predominantly among Hispanics/Latinos. His research on health services in developing countries focuses in two areas: cross-border health care utilization and in the effect of health services privatization and decentralization in middle-income countries, predominantly in Latin America. He currently serves as Assistant Director for the Policy Track of the Master in Public Health and the joint degree Masters program in Public Policy

and Public Health. Arturo got his PhD in Public Policy from UC-Berkeley in 2008. He also holds a Master in Economics (2006) and a Master in Public Policy (2004) from UC-Berkeley. As part of his professional experience, he worked as a consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank and for the California Program on Access to Care, where he was responsible for the cross-border health insurance project. Arturo started his professional career in the Health Financing Administration of the Mexican Ministry of Health.

Contact info

UCLA School of Public Health; Box 951772, 31-299 CHS; Los Angeles, CA 90095-1772; (510) 926-2055; avb@ucla.edu;