Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute on Hispanic Drug Abuse

Summer Agenda

June 19 – 29, 2012
Day One - June 19 Tuesday

7:45 - 8:30 am  Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 - 9:00 am  Welcome and Introduction
Avelardo Valdez, Ph.D., IRTI Director, University of Southern California
Mark K. Todd, Ph.D., Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, University of Southern California
Joseph Frascella, Ph.D., Director, Division of Clinical Neuroscience and Behavioral Research, National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse

9:00 - 10:00 am  NIDA's Organization, Objectives and Funding Priorities
Joseph Frascella, Ph.D., Director, Division of Clinical Neuroscience and Behavioral Research, National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse

10:00 - 10:15 am  Break

10:15 - Noon  The Epidemiology of Drug Abuse
Yonette F. Thomas, Ph.D., Howard University

Noon -1:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 pm  Contextual and Cultural Influences on Substance Use Among Latinos in the United States
Antonio L. Estrada, Ph.D., The University of Arizona

3:00 - 3:15 pm  Break

3:15 - 4:30 pm  IRTI Overview and Expectations: Training, Mentoring, and Networking
Avelardo Valdez, Ph.D., University of Southern California
Alice Cepeda, Ph.D., University of Southern California

7:00 - 9:00 pm  Welcome Networking Event
Los Angeles Athletic Club
Day Two - June 20 Wednesday

8:00 - 8:30 am  Breakfast

8:30 - 9:45 am  Journey Into The Brain
    Edwin Barea-Rodriguez, Ph.D., University of Texas at San Antonio

9:45 - 10:00 am  Break

10:00 - 11:15 am  Neuroscience and Drug Issues
    Laura E. O’Dell, Ph.D., University of Texas at El Paso

11:15 - Noon  Q & A

Noon - 1:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 - 2:45 pm  Interaction Between Environment, Individual and Drug in Development of Substance Abuse in Adolescence
    Sari Izenwasser, Ph.D., University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

2:45 - 3:00 pm  Break

3:00 - 4:30 pm  Substance Use and The Urban Environment
    Danielle C. Ompad, Ph.D., New York University

4:30 - 5:00 pm  Q & A
8:00 - 8:30 am  Breakfast

8:30 - 9:45 am  Trajectories of Minority Group Drug Use Careers: Theoretical and Data Analysis Issues  
Li-Jung Liang, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles

9:45 - 10:30 am  Break

10:30 - 12:30 pm  10 Fatal Flaws of NIH Grant Submissions  
Steffanie A. Strathdee, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego  
Thomas L. Patterson, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego

12:30 - 1:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 - 6:00 pm  NETWORKING ACTIVITY  
IRTI Scavenger Hunt
Day Four - June 22 Friday

8:00 - 8:30 am  Breakfast

8:30 - 9:45 am  Appropriate Design and Measures in Hispanic/Latino(a)
Drug Abuse Research: Defining and Measuring Cultural Phenomena
Maria Felix-Ortiz, Ph.D., University of Incarnate Word

9:45 - 10:00 am  Break

10:00 - 11:15 am  Acculturation, Substance Abuse, and HIV Risk:
Limitations and New Perspectives
Dharma E. Cortes, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School and
University of Massachusetts, Boston

11:15 - Noon  Q & A

Noon - 1:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 - 2:45 pm  SPECIALIZED WORKSHOP

Neurochemical Mechanisms of Drug Reward, Dependence and Relapse
Loren Parsons, Ph.D., The Scripps Research Institute

2:45 - 3:00 pm  Break

3:00 - 5:00 pm  Workshop Continued
(Day for individual work on presentations)
Day Six - June 24  Sunday

8:00 - 8:30 am  Breakfast

8:30 - 9:45 am  Health and Social Services Research Data Sets: Design and Measurement  
Bennett W. Fletcher, Ph.D.  
Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research  
National institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse

9:45 - 10:00 am  Break

10:00 - 11:15 am  What We Know and What Remains to be Learned About the Family-Based Treatment of Hispanic Substance Abusing Adolescents  
Daniel A. Santisteban, Ph.D., University of Miami

11:15 - Noon  Q & A

Noon - 1:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 - 2:45 pm  SPECIALIZED WORKSHOP  
Neurotransmitters and Brain Circuits  
Edward Castañeda, Ph.D., University of Texas at El Paso

2:45 - 3:00 pm  Break

3:00 - 4:45 pm  Workshop Continued

4:45 - 5:00 pm  Break

5:00 - 6:15 pm  Diagnostic Statistics: A Review of Measures of Centrality, Dispersion, and Covariance  
Philip Garcia, Ph.D., California State University System (OPTIONAL)
Day Seven - June 25 Monday

8:00 - 8:30 am  Breakfast

8:30 - 9:45 am  Responsible Conduct of Research: Skimming the Surface  
Susan Rose, Ph.D., Office for the Protection of Research Subjects, University of Southern California

9:45 - 10:00 am  Break

10:00 - 11:15 am  Prevention of Substance Use and Abuse among Latino Populations  
Felipe Gonzalez-Castro, MSW, Ph.D., Arizona State University

11:15 - Noon  Q & A

Noon - 1:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 - 2:45 pm  SPECIALIZED WORKSHOP
  Treatment Intervention Science and Clinical Trials in Drug Abuse  
Viviana E. Horigian, M.D., University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

2:45 - 3:00 pm  Break

3:00 - 5:00 pm  Workshop Continued
Day Eight - June 26 Tuesday

8:00 - 8:30 am   Breakfast

8:30 - 9:45 am   Multiple Indicator Analysis (MIA): Using Secondary Data to Analyze Illicit Drug Use
                 Alberto G. Mata Jr., Ph.D., The University of Oklahoma

9:45 - 10:00 am  Q & A

10:00 - 10:30 am Break

10:30 - Noon    NIH Submissions: Lessons Learned from Principal Investigators

Noon - 1:30 pm   Lunch

                   Struggles of Joaquin
                   Felipe González Castro, Ph.D., M.S.W., Arizona State University

1:30 - 5:00 pm   Networking Activity

                   Flash Mentoring Session
Day Nine - June 27 Wednesday

8:00 - 8:30 am  Breakfast

8:30 - 10:00 am  So Happy Together: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Combine Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in the Same Study  
*J. Bryan Page, Ph.D., University of Miami*

10:00 - 10:30 am  Break

10:30 - Noon  HIV/AIDS Syndemics Among Latinos  
*Merrill C. Singer, Ph.D., University of Connecticut*

Noon - 1:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 pm  Network Analysis, HIV and Other Infectious Disease Risks Among Drug Users  
*Alan Neaigus, Ph.D., Columbia University*

3:00 - 3:30  Break

3:30 - 5:00 pm  Alcohol and Drugs of Abuse: Beyond Risk of HIV/AIDS  
*Patricia Molina, M.D., Ph.D., Louisiana State University*
Day Ten - June 28 Thursday

8:00 - 8:30 am  Breakfast

8:30 - Noon  Presentations by 2012 IRTI Fellows

Noon - 1:30 pm  Lunch

1:30 - 5:00 pm  Presentations by 2012 IRTI Fellows

8:00 pm  Social Event  (TBA)

Day Eleven - June 29 Friday

9:30 - 10:00 am  Breakfast

10:00 - Noon  Wrap-Up Session: Networking Strategies

Noon - 1:30 pm  Lunch
NHSN Mission Statement

The National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse is dedicated to improving the health of Hispanics by increasing the amount and quality of interdisciplinary translational research on drug abuse, and fostering the development of Hispanic scientists in drug abuse research.

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NATIONAL HISPANIC SCIENCE NETWORK ON DRUG ABUSE

2012 Conference

“Bridging the Gap in Behavioral Health Services for Latinos”

September 26-29th, 2012
The Westin San Diego
www.hispanicscience.org
Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute on Hispanic Drug Abuse

Biosketches

June 19 – 29, 2012
Meghan Althoff, M.P.H.
Meghan is a third year MD/PhD student in epidemiology at Tulane University in New Orleans. Meghan grew up in Chicago and attended Northwestern University where she studied biology and Spanish. Her interests in epidemiologic research and underserved populations were sparked while conducting public health research in Mexico City. Meghan earned a Master of Public Health in Infectious Diseases at the University of California, Berkeley. While earning her MPH, Meghan worked in Salvador, Brazil investigating novel approaches to diagnosing latent tuberculosis. Meghan works with Dr. Patricia Kissinger to investigate HIV/STI risk behaviors among Latino migrant men in New Orleans, a new receiving Latino community. Meghan was recently awarded a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for pre-doctoral support (F30) from NIDA to help fund her training and research on the impact of sex and drug networks on the spread of HIV/STIs among Latino migrant men.

Mayra Y. Bámaca-Colbert, Ph.D.
Dr. Colbert received her Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from Arizona State University in 2008 and accepted an Assistant Professor at The Pennsylvania State University in the fall of that same year. Dr. Colbert has conducted ecological, culturally grounded studies with immigrant and U.S. born Latino adolescents and their families. Her research is focused on the cultural, developmental, and interpersonal factors that are linked to immigrant and U.S. born Latino youth’s development and adjustment in terms of mental health, problem behaviors, and academic outcomes. Because Latino youth are disproportionately affected by substance use and mental health problems, her emerging work hopes to merge these two pivotal areas by examining the multifaceted nature of problem behavior and adjustment among Latino youth and explore the cultural, developmental, and relational predictors of profiles of adjustment.

Miguel A. Cano, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Dr. Cano is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Health Disparities Research at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. His research examines health disparities through culturally sensitive methodologies and culturally appropriate interventions. The aim of his research is to 1) identify psychosocial and cultural determinants that influence mental health and risk behavior; and 2) implement these findings into the development and evaluation of culturally sensitive interventions for comorbid conditions.

Maria Gurrola, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Dr. Gurrola graduated with her BSW, MSW and Ph. D. from Arizona State University. She also obtained a Master of Human Relations from Oklahoma University. She is an assistant professor at California State University Long Beach. Dr. Gurrola’s research interest is related to migration and women voices primarily related to social capital, including asset building such as family connections, entrepreneurial activities, education and community involvement. Her overall research agenda is looking at the wellbeing in Hispanic families living in the U.S. and their country of origin and new immigration legislation in the U.S. after the terrorist attacks of 2001. Her research agenda as a social worker promotes issues of social justice and equality as well as quality of services for all persons. Dr. Gurrola has experience in behavioral health working with children and adolescents within the Hispanic community.

Jennifer Kam, Ph.D.
Dr. Kam examines stressors associated with ethnic/racial identity, as well as immigration and acculturation processes that place Latino adolescents at risk for poor mental health and substance use outcomes. She also is interested in studying communication with parents and friends as a protective factor that shapes anti-substance use perceptions and
Marcos Martinez, MSW
Marcos just completed the second year of his doctoral program in the School of Social Work at Arizona State University (ASU), where he is a graduate research associate at the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC). He also works with the Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy at ASU and is actively engaged in student leadership in his doctoral program. Marcos earned a Bachelors degree in Social Work from Dana College and a Masters degree in Social Work, with a concentration in Government Non-profit, from New Mexico Highlands University. His research interests are minority health disparities, Hispanic youth substance use prevention, and community development. For his dissertation, Marcos is focusing on the impact of culture, familial support, and social capital on Hispanic substance use. In the classroom, he incorporates interdisciplinary approaches and advocacy to community based research, public health, and social work practice.

Lizette Ojeda, Ph.D.
Dr. Ojeda is a Mexican American bilingual, bicultural first generation college graduate raised in Houston, Texas, where she earned an Associates Degree in Sociology from San Jacinto College and a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from the University of Houston. She received her doctorate in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri. She has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at Texas A&M University since 2009, where she teaches courses on multiculturalism, Latino psychology, and career development. Her research focuses on the role of culture and masculinity on Latino men’s educational, physical health, and mental health disparities. The next step in her research trajectory is to examine how cultural (e.g., acculturation, discrimination) and masculinity (e.g., machismo, caballerismo) factors interact in predicting substance abuse among Latino males. She was recently awarded a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship for the 2012-2013 year.

Miguel Angel G. Mendoza, M.D., M.P.H.
Dr. Mendoza currently serves as Executive Director of Research and Evaluation at the Institute for Prevention and Treatment of Addiction in Mexico City (IAPA) where he is a principal investigator. Dr. Mendoza received his Medical Doctor by UAM-X and psychologist by UNAM. He performed graduate studies at the Institute of Public Health of Mexico (INSP), obtaining a Master's degree in Public Health: Epidemiology. Dr. Mendoza is a specialist in drug abuse and is certified in Genomic Sciences, Clinical Pharmacology, Child Neuropsychology and polysomnography. He is a professor, currently teaching courses on neurosciences, pharmacology, research methodology and biostatistics. His research interest areas include epidemiology of drug addiction, information systems, neurosciences, health economics, biostatistics, pharmacology, and sleep medicine. Dr. Mendoza has had several positions in the public service in government health areas.
Fátima A. Muñoz, M.D., M.P.H.
Dr. Muñoz is a Mexican physician and postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Global Public Health, University of California, San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine, and is a native of the San Diego/Tijuana border region. Dr. Muñoz obtained a Medical Degree and a Master’s in Public Health from Universidad Autonoma de Baja California. She has over 10 years of experience working in outreach community health prevention programs, specifically in underserved populations, and also has experience teaching and mentoring medical students interested in research. During this time, Dr. Muñoz coordinated prevention campaigns on addictions and STIs, including HIV among youths. Dr. Muñoz has always been interested in border research and elimination of health disparities in the US-Mexico border region with emphasis on HIV and drug use among high risk population, access to care and health behaviors, particularly as they relate to stigma. She is currently working on a T32 training grant focused on HIV perceptions and drug use stigma related with HIV and HCV risk behaviors among injection drug users living San Diego.

Kathryn M. Nowotny, M.A.
Kathryn is a Chancellor’s Fellow and Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology, University of Colorado at Boulder (CU) where she also serves as a Research Assistant for the Problem Behavior Program and the CU Population Center at the Institute of Behavioral Science. She holds an MA in sociology and BA’s in sociology and anthropology from the University of Houston (UH). Previously, she served as Research Coordinator for the UH Center for Drug & Social Policy Research where she coordinated multiple National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse funded projects with a focus on drug use among high risk hard to reach Hispanic populations. Currently, Kathryn is working with Dr. Joanne Belknap on a U.S. Department of Justice funded study examining the pathways to jail for women focusing on histories of mental health, trauma, substance abuse, and treatment. Another current project, under the mentorship of Dr. Jason Boardman, uses data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) to examine the gender differences in discrimination on mental health and poor health behaviors among Hispanics in the U.S. Her proposed dissertation seeks to examine the syndemic of substance abuse, violent victimization, mental health, and HIV risk among a high risk sample of incarcerated Latinas.

Martha I. Zapata Roblyer, M.A.
Martha is a third year doctoral student in the Oklahoma State University Department of Human Development and Family Science, and a Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant at the Center for Family Resilience. She received a master’s degree in organizational dynamics with specialization in project management from the University of Oklahoma. She also holds a degree in psychology from La Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia. Martha’s research interests include the sociocultural contexts and family processes involved in the psychosocial adjustment of youth from immigrant families; risk and resilience factors related to Latino adolescent substance use, risky sexual behavior and school dropout; and cross-cultural studies involving the comparison and contrast of U.S. and foreign populations. In February of 2012, Martha received an OSU Women’s Faculty Council Research Award, and the Virginia Stapley Scholarship in Human Development and Family Science.
Presenters’ Biosketches

Edwin J. Barea-Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Dr. Barea-Rodriguez is Professor of Neurobiology and Chair of The Department of Biology at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He obtained his PhD from Southern Illinois University in 1992. Following three years as a postdoctoral fellow in at the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Barea-Rodriguez joined The University of Texas at San Antonio’s Biology Department in 1995. Dr. Barea-Rodriguez has served as the Biology Department’s Chair since 2007. Over the past 17 years, Dr. Barea-Rodriguez’s neurobiology research lab has been the recipient of several NIH grants. The focus of his research is the neurobiology of aging. In particular how oxidative damage may be involved in age-related cognitive impairments. Since joining UTSA, Dr. Barea-Rodriguez has received the Richard Howe Award for Excellence in Service to Undergraduate Students, as well as a Faculty Research Award.

Edward Castañeda, Ph.D.
Dr. Castañeda is a Professor in the Area of Behavioral Neuroscience and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at El Paso. Eddie’s research investigates plasticity of presynaptic mechanisms that modulate neurotransmitter release during changes in behavior due to neurodegeneration or substance abuse. The current focus of Dr. Castañeda’s research seeks to understand the presynaptic mechanisms regulating dopamine release in models of Parkinson’s disease and stimulant drug addiction. Dr. Castañeda has been active in service devoted to diversity. He has contributed to national training programs as a steering committee member for the American Psychological Association Diversity Program in Neuroscience Fellowship and as faculty in the Summer Program in Neuroscience, Ethics and Survival (SPINES) course at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory. He currently serves as Co-Director of UTEP’s Hispanic Health Disparities Center and as PI for the NIDA-funded DIDARP UTEP VIDA Project.

Felipe González Castro, Ph.D.
Dr. Castro is professor and director of the Health Psychology Program in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Castro’s research areas include the study of cultural factors as sources of risk or protection against the addictions and other disease-related outcomes, including the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs, and in the prevention of type 2 diabetes. His research informs the design of prevention and treatment interventions to reduce risk behaviors and to promote health enhancing behaviors among Latino and other racial/ethnic minority populations of the United States. He is applying integrative mixed methods (IMM) (qualitative-quantitative) to the study of resilience to understand how it may safeguard against the addictions and other disease outcomes.

Alice Cepeda, Ph.D.
Dr. Cepeda is currently Assistant Professor in the University of Southern California School of Social Work. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the City University of New York, Graduate Center. Dr. Cepeda’s work has focused on the social epidemiology of health risk behaviors that disproportionately affect Mexican-origin populations living in distinct disadvantaged urban communities including drug use, violence, HIV/STI risks, and mental illness. She is currently PI and Co- Investigator, respectively on two NIDA funded studies including 1) a study examining the long term health consequences of adolescent male gang membership and 2) the emergence and diffusion of crack use in Mexico City.

Dharma E. Cortés, Ph.D.
Dr. Cortés is an Instructor at Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, a Senior Research Associate at the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston,
Presenters’ Biosketches

and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Northeastern University’s Institute on Urban Health Research. She has been conducting community-based research with Latinos in the United States for more than fifteen years. Her work has focused on the study of culture, mental and physical health, health literacy, and health and mental health service utilization research. She has conducted studies focusing on acculturation, health, mental health, and quality of health care in Latino populations. Her past and current research combines qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Antonio L. Estrada, MSPH, Ph.D.
Dr. Estrada is Professor of Mexican American Studies and Public Health and Head of the department of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona. He received his Ph.D. in Public Health with training in Behavioral Sciences/Health Education, Behavioral Epidemiology, and Evaluation and his MSPH in Behavioral Sciences/Health Education, from the UCLA School of Public Health. His research focus has been on HIV disease among injection drug users and their sexual partners, prevention with positives, and Hispanic/Latino health disparities. He has been the Principal Investigator on two R01 research grants, a minority supplement, and state and foundation funding, and has served as Co-Principal Investigator on three NIH funded grants. He co-authored Sana! Sana! Mexican Americans and Health, second edition (forthcoming, UA Press), and has over 100 publications and presentations. Dr. Estrada also works as an evaluator for local community-based agencies, a community health center and HIV/AIDS immunology clinic.

Maria Félix-Ortiz, Ph.D.
Dr. Félix-Ortiz is an Associate Professor at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio and an independent research consultant. Her research interests are in drug use and abuse, where she conducted pioneering work in resiliency among Latino and other youth; and in the use of assisted mutual support groups. She's worked with persons who were HIV-infected, mentally ill, and abusing drugs, and with Latino gang affiliated youth, and has been awarded National Institute of Health and other grants for her research in drug use. She is a member of the American Psychological Association, and Society for Prevention Research, and a charter member of NIH’s Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse. She has published over a dozen peer-reviewed articles across various journals, and has written over 200 columns for the San Antonio Express-News. Dr. Félix-Ortiz has been recognized with various awards for her research, teaching, and journalism.

Bennett W. Fletcher, Ph.D.
Dr. Fletcher 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 Ph.D. in Sociology from the City University of New York, Graduate Center. Dr. Cepeda’s work has focused on the social epidemiology of health risk behaviors that disproportionately affect Mexican-origin populations living in distinct disadvantaged urban communities including drug use, violence, HIV/STI risks, and mental illness. She is currently PI and Co-Investigator, respectively on two NIDA funded studies including 1) a study examining the long term health consequences of adolescent male gang membership and 2) the emergence and diffusion of crack use in Mexico City.

Joseph Frascella, Ph.D.
Dr. Frascella is currently Director of the Division of Clinical Neuroscience and Behavioral Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and heads a broad drug abuse and addiction program of translational research and research training in clinical neuroscience, human development, and behavioral treatment. Prior, he served for several years as the Chief of the Clinical Neurobiology Branch as well as the program director of NIDA’s basic pain research, basic research training, and human neuroimaging programs. He
Serves on many committees and workgroups both within NIDA and across the NIH. Before joining NIDA, Dr. Frascella directed a neurophysiology research program at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, and prior to that he held the position of Assistant Professor within the Department of Psychology at Brown University. He received an A.B. in Biopsychology from Hamilton College, and a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. degree in Experimental Psychology/Neuroscience from Brown University.

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Dr. Horigian is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Miller School of Medicine. She is the Project Director of the Florida Node Alliance of the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network (CTN) In this role, she has contributed to the design of numerous studies, including over 10 years of experience in the implementation of multisite clinical trials. She has expertise in research design, project management, and working with remote sites in community-based implementation research. Most recently, she coordinated the NIDA CTN national multi-site trial of Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) and was directly responsible for the daily oversight of 5 of the 8 sites. She is currently the Principal Investigator for a project that aims to develop the research infrastructure for the implementation of rigorous randomized clinical trials at the National Institutes of Psychiatry (NIP) in Mexico City where she mentors researchers of all levels.

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Dr. Kaplan is a Research Professor and Associate Dean of Research at the University of Southern California School of Social Work. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the UCLA as a National Institute of General Medical Science trainee. Dr. Kaplan has extensive research experience in an international context in social
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Dr. Liang is Assistant Professor of Medicine at the UCLA School of Medicine, and is a Biostatistician. Dr. Liang received her doctoral degrees from University of California, Los Angeles. She has experience applying Bayesian statistics, multi-level modeling, longitudinal and repeated measures methodologies, and survival models to a broad range of health-related research problems, including substance abuse and health services research.

Alberto G. Mata, Jr., Ph.D.
Dr. Mata is currently Professor in the Department of Human Relations at the University of Oklahoma. His current research seeks to promote community field studies as well as basic and applied community intervention. Dr. Mata has a distinguished public service record in various federal branches of government including NIDA and SAMHSA. He was Project Officer in the Community Research Branch in NIDA for the AIDS Demonstration Projects. He served on a Presidential Commission on HIV/AIDS and the Ford Foundation National Community AIDS program as a board member.

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Dr. Molina is the Richard Ashman, Ph.D. Professor and Department Head of Physiology at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC). She also serves as the Co-chair of the NHSN Steering Committee. Dr. Molina completed her MD at the Universidad Francisco Marroquin in Guatemala and Ph.D. in Physiology at LSUHSC. Her postdoctoral experience at Vanderbilt University focused on investigations of neural control of metabolic responses to stress. Research in Dr. Molina's laboratory has focused on studying the inflammatory and cardiovascular responses to traumatic injury and hemorrhagic shock. Her studies use a neuroendocrine, cardiovascular, and host systems biology approach to integrating defense mechanisms to understating the impact Latino Research.

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Dr. Neaigus is Director of Research in the HIV Epidemiology Program at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Prior to this, he was Deputy Director and Principal Investigator in the Institute for International Research on Youth at Risk at National Development and Research Institutes in New York City. He is also an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. For over 20 years, Dr. Neaigus has conducted research on HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne and sexually transmitted diseases among drug users. His current research interests focus on the influence of social networks and social structure on the risks and spread of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections in vulnerable urban populations.

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Dr. O'Dell is Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). She is also an adjunct faculty member of the Biology Department. She received her Ph.D. in the Behavioral Neuroscience Program at Arizona State University. Dr. O'Dell's research program is focused on the neural mechanisms that mediate addiction to drugs of abuse. Her laboratory combines neurochemical and molecular approaches with behavioral models to study the neural basis of addiction. Her current work is supported by a 5-year R01 grant from the NIDA.
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Dr. Ompad is a Research Associate Professor at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health. She completed an M.H.S. and Ph.D. in infectious disease epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. Dr. Ompad has extensive experience in design, conduct and analysis of community-based studies cross-sectional and prospective studies focusing on illicit substance use, risky sexual behavior, and access to vaccines in urban populations. Her research portfolio includes correlates, predictors and consequences of heroin, crack, cocaine, and club drug use; adult access to vaccines among "easy-to-miss" populations like drug users and the homeless; and factors associated with successful heroin cessation.

Loren H. Parsons, Ph.D.
Dr. Parsons received his Ph.D. in chemistry from Emory University. In 1997 he established an independent research laboratory at TSRI and has continued to characterize the neuropharmacological and neuroadaptive mechanisms that mediate the transition from occasional, controlled drug use to the loss of behavioral control over drug-seeking and drug-taking that defines addiction. Ongoing projects in his laboratory investigate the mechanisms underlying the emotional and cognitive disruptions that persist during periods of protracted drug abstinence with the goal of identifying treatment strategies to diminish dependence-related anxiety, depression, impulsivity and drug craving. This work traverses various classes of abused drugs (alcohol, nicotine, cannabinoids, opiates, psychostimulants) and presently focuses primarily on dependence-related disruptions in the function and influence of the endogenous cannabinoid system. Dr. Parsons has been active in the NIH extramural grant review process and presently serves on the editorial boards of *Neuropharmacology* and *Alcohol*.

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. Dr. Page recently co-authored a book with Merrill Singer on the ethnographic study of drug use (August, 2010). He has conducted studies funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Mental Health. His research experience in local neighborhoods uniquely equips him to help research teams to accomplish goals related to intervening at the community level and monitoring the impact of the intervention. Dr. Page's publications often address questions of community setting and approaches to finding specific populations in those settings.

Thomas L. Patterson, Ph.D.
Dr. Patterson is Professor of Psychiatry at University of California, San Diego, and has been conducting psychosocial research with HIV+ and "at risk" populations since 1989. He has been the principal investigator on several NIH-funded grants to test the efficacy of theory-based behavioral interventions to increase condom use and decrease HIV and STI transmission risk in various populations, including methamphetamine users (both HIV-positive MSM and HIV-negative male and female heterosexuals) in the U.S., female sex workers (in Mexico and India), and male clients of female sex workers (in Tijuana, Mexico). Currently, Dr. Patterson is testing the implementation of his efficacious, single-session intervention for female sex workers at 12 community health clinics in various regions of Mexico.
Susan Rose, Ph.D.
Dr. Rose is the Executive Director of the Office for the Protection of Research Subjects at the University of Southern California, an office she established. Dr. Rose’s efforts are currently directed toward creating a stronger, more flexible Human Subjects Protection Program, including continuous quality improvement, better addressing researcher and regulatory needs, designing education materials, and reaching out to the USC community and national human subjects organizations. She taught university biology before she entered government service and is currently an Adjunct Professor in the USC School of Pharmacy. Dr. Rose serves or has served on several international and national human subjects research groups including: the CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) online Human Subjects Education developers group, the faculty of PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research); the planning committee and speaker for the annual AAHRPP (Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs) conference, and maintains membership in the DOE Human Subjects working group.

Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D.
Dr. Santisteban is a Clinical Psychologist and Professor at the Center of Excellence for Health Disparities Research: “El Centro”, University of Miami, School of Nursing and Health Studies. He has three current NIH clinical trials and has been the recipient of numerous other NIH grants to develop enhancements to family treatments for special populations (e.g., Hispanics and drug abusing adolescents with co-occurring disorders). Dr. Santisteban is the developer of a flexible and adaptive family therapy for adolescents called Culturally Informed and Flexible Family Treatment for Adolescents (CIFFTA). He is a regular contributor to national NIH grant review committees, treatment guidelines panels, editorial boards of journals, and to State agencies focused on bridging research and practice in the public health systems.

Merrill C. Singer, Ph.D.
Dr. Singer is a medical anthropologist, is a Professor in the departments of Anthropology and Community Medicine, and a Senior Research Scientist at Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention at the University of Connecticut. Additionally, he is on the faculty of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS at Yale University. Over his career, his research and writing have focused on HIV/AIDS in highly vulnerable and disadvantaged populations, illicit drug use and drinking behavior, community and structural violence, health disparities, and the political ecology of health. In addition to two active studies on HIV/AIDS (Sexual Risk Networks among Latinas, and Testing an HIV/AIDS Substitution-based Risk Reduction Model for Drug Injectors in Kabul, Afghanistan) his current research focuses on the nature and impact of both syndemics (interacting epidemics) and pluralea (intersecting ecocrises) on health.

Steffanie A. Strathdee, Ph.D.
Dr. Strathdee is Associate Dean of Global Health Sciences, Harold Simon Professor and Chief of the Division of Global Public Health at UCSD’s School of Medicine. She founded UCSD’s campus-wide Global Health Initiative, and co-directs the Global Health track of the joint PhD program in Public Health at UCSD and SDSU. After losing both her PhD advisor and best friend to AIDS in 1991, Steffanie pledged her career to HIV prevention and has published >400 publications in this area. Since joining UCSD in 2004, she has led several NIH-funded research studies of HIV risk behaviors among drug users and sex workers in the Mexico-US border region. She also leads several HIV prevention training grants that have trained >300 Mexican and 100 U.S. students. She is also co-PI on the new GloCal Health Fellowship, that offers fellows from UCSD and three other UCs with stipends for conducting global health research in 24 developing country settings.
Presenters’ Biosketches

Yonette F. Thomas, Ph.D.
Dr. Thomas is the Associate Vice President for Research Compliance at Howard University. Prior to joining Howard in July 2009, Dr. Thomas served as the Chief of the Epidemiology Research Branch at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she managed a budget of approximately $84.7M (FY 2008) training in epidemiology, medical sociology and demography. Her primary research and publications have focused on the social epidemiology of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS and the link with geography. At NIDA she built a national research agenda around the role of the social environment. At the NIH she led a trans-NIH workgroup on the mapping of the social environment as it relates to the social determinants of health; and developed and stimulated a portfolio of science broadly focused on social epidemiology, genetic liability and phenotypic heterogeneity, and human development across the life course.

Avelardo Valdez, Ph.D.
Dr. Valdez is a Professor at the University of Southern California School of Social Work. He obtained his Ph.D. in Sociology at the UCLA. A primary focus of his research has been on the relationship between substance abuse and violence and health issues among high-risk groups. His research projects have been among “hidden populations” such as youth and prison gang members, injecting and non-injecting heroin users, aging injection heroin users, immigrant day laborers, and sex workers on the U.S./Mexico border. He is a recipient of federal grants from the NIH, CDC, and SAMHSA. Dr. Valdez is currently examining the emergence and diffusion of crack use in Mexico City, DF. He received the Award for Excellence in Mentorship from the NHSN for his role in directing the NHSN Summer Training Institute. He is a founding member of the NHSN National Steering Committee.
Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute on Hispanic Drug Abuse

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