2020 HISPANIC & LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

VIRTUAL RESEARCH DAY
"CELEBRATING OUR AFRICAN AND INDIGENOUS ROOTS"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
ZOOM/ FACEBOOK LIVE @KUMCOIP
WELCOME TO OUR 2020 LATINX AND HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

On behalf of the Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month Planning Committee, I warmly welcome you to our "2020 Research Day showcasing research, service, and educational initiatives in Latinx health and social issues" inter-campus virtual event.

Our third year hosting the event and our 2020 theme "Celebrating our African and Indigenous Roots" was chosen to demonstrate our solidarity local and global movements seeking justice and equity for Black and Brown lives across all sectors. Moreover, amid a pandemic disproportionately affecting Latinx and other minorities, elevating the conversation about health and social issues impacting Latinx in the U.S. and Latin America was of utmost importance for our committee. We have an exciting program highlighting the multiple contributions in research and service from our presenters. We hope you enjoy it while actively engaging and extending your networks for future collaborative research and clinical work.

Putting our heritage month activities together was not a small task. We want to thank Dr. McGee, KUMC Vice-chancellor of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Kimberly Connelly, DEI Programming Co-Chair, for their guidance and support. We want to thank our colleagues from KU-Lawrence, Dr. Tamara Falicov, Associate Dean for Research, Arts and Humanities, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Marta Caminero-Santangelo, Professor, KU Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, for being a bridge between our campuses. We want to thank all our presenters and keynote speaker, Dr. Eliseo Pérez-Stable, Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, for sharing their work. We want to thank YOU for participating and contributing to Research Day. And last but not least, I would like to wholeheartedly thank the members of our planning committee for sharing their talent, passion, commitment, and multiple hours of work during the past four months. It has been an honor working with each of you, and we are very fortunate that you are part of our KUMC-KU community.

¡Gracias!

Mariana Ramírez
Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month Planning Committee Chair
Director, JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.  Welcome and Announcements

10:00 – 10:35 a.m.  **Neurology and Aging**
Moderated by Brenda Linares and Letycia Nunez-Argote

First-Year Experience of Reestablished Academic Epilepsy Surgery
*Gloria Ortiz-Guerrero, MD*

Effectiveness of “Reducing Disability in Alzheimer’s Disease” Among Dementia Patients and Their Family Caregivers
*Jaime Perales Puchalt, Ph.D. MPH*

The Impact of COVID-19 on The Wellbeing and Cognition of Older Adults
*Jairo E Martinez, BA*

Addressing Dementia Detection and Care Disparities Experienced by Latinos from Primary Care Settings
*Mariola Acosta Rullán, MS*

10:35 – 10:40 a.m.  Q&A Neurology and Aging

10:40 – 11:00 a.m.  **Health Coverage and Pediatric and Maternal Health**
Moderated by Brenda Linares and Letycia Nunez-Argote

Exploring Diet Quality of Latinas during Pregnancy
*Juliana Camargo, Ph.D. MPH*

Collaborating for Culturally Competent Prenatal Education among Hispanic Communities
*Martha Henao Villa, MD*
Key Stakeholder’s Perspectives on Adolescents and Young Adult Reproductive Health in Rural Latino Communities  
*Romina Barral, MD MScR*

The Disparities in Healthcare Access and Healthcare Coverage in the Latino and Immigrant Community  
*Valeria Macias and Laura Espinosa*

11:00 – 11:05 a.m.  
Q&A Health Coverage and Pediatric and Maternal Health

11:05 – 11:30 a.m.  
**Latinos, Culture and Context**  
Moderated by Brenda Linares and Letycia Nunez-Argote

Cultural Health Beliefs Among Hispanic/Latino Parents  
*Alison Fowler, BS*

Woody Encroachment: A Threat to the Grassland Alliance Ranchers of the Pampa Biome in Uruguay  
*Diana Restrepo Osorio, BS*

Maid’s Room: The Spatial Segregation in Brazilian Residences  
*Doriane Andrade Meyer, BA, MA*

Adelante Kansas City - A Culture and Language Coaching Program  
*Francisco Martinez, MA, CHI-S and John D. Cowden, MD, MPH*

Vulnerability & Resilience of Indigenous Rural Households in Guatemala  
*Silvia Sánchez-Díaz, MA*

11:30 – 11:35 a.m.  
Q&A Latino, Culture and Context

11:35 – 11:50 a.m.  
Break
11:50 – 11:55 a.m. | Announcements

11:55 – 12:15 p.m. | **M-Health**
Moderated by Brenda Linares and Letycia Nunez-Argote

Is My Health Podcast Making a Difference? A Toolkit to Develop and Assess a Podcast and Complementary Multimedia Content
*Ileana Cepeda, MPH*

JUNTOS RADIO: A Podcast and Social Media Campaign to Increase Access to Evidence-Based Health Information Among Spanish-Speaking Latinos
*Mariana Ramírez, LMSW*

Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Program through Text Messages for the Latino Population in Kansas City, KS
*Mónica Facharán Cabrera, MD*

Development and Feasibility Testing of CuidaTXT, A Text-Message Intervention for Latino Dementia Caregivers
*Paul Espinoza Kissell, BS*

12:15 – 12:20 p.m. | Q&A M-Health

12:20 – 12:45 p.m. | **Epidemiology and Basic Laboratory Research**
Moderated by Brenda Linares and Letycia Nunez-Argote

Mission of The Century: Developing a Vaccine to End the Covid-19 Pandemic
*Barbara Pahud, MD*

Exploring Neuronal and Muscular Basis of "Liking" and "Wanting" Using Different Drosophila Species
*Consuelo Perez-Sanchez, M.Sc.*
Access to Smoking Cessation Treatment Among Brazilians with Mental Illness

*Erica Cruvinel, Ph.D. MPH*

Private Firearms in the United States: Results from the 2019 National Firearms Survey

*John Berrigan, BS*

12:45 – 12:50 p.m. Q&A Epidemiology and Basic Laboratory Research

12:50 – 1:00 p.m. Break

1:00 – 2:15 p.m. **Keynote Speaker**

*Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, Ph.D. MD*

*Director National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities*

*National Institutes of Health (NIH)*

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. **Roundtable**

Latinx Professionals of Indigenous and Black Roots

*Moderated by Marta Caminero-Santangelo, Ph.D.*

*Director Center for Latin America & Caribbean Studies*

*University of Kansas*

**Panelists**

*Bart Dean, Brent Metz, Gibette Encarnacion, Idaima Calderon, Ignacio Carvajal, Laura Herlihy, Robert Schwaller, Miryam Yataco, Pascual Tahay Tzaj*

4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks
Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D. is Director of the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), which seeks to advance the science of minority health and health disparities research through research, training, research capacity development, public education, and information dissemination. Dr. Pérez-Stable practiced general internal medicine for 37 years at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) before moving to NIH in September 2015. He was a professor of medicine at UCSF and chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine for 17 years. His research interests include improving the health of racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations, advancing patient-centered care, improving cross-cultural communication skills among clinicians, and promoting diversity in the biomedical research workforce. For more than 30 years, Dr. Pérez-Stable led research on Latino smoking cessation and tobacco control policy in the United States and Latin America, addressing clinical and prevention issues in cancer screening, and mentoring over 70 minority investigators. He has published over 250 peer-reviewed articles and was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2001.
Alison Fowler, BS
Medical Student
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Alison Fowler, BS, grew up in Overland Park, Kansas, and completed her undergraduate education at the University of Arkansas, where she studied Biology and Spanish. She is currently a fourth-year medical student at KU. She is conducting a research project in a bilingual pediatric clinic investigating the cultural health beliefs and practices of Hispanic/Latino families and how those beliefs shape the parent-physician relationship. She hopes to use these experiences to serve as a bilingual and culturally-informed pediatrician and educate other providers about these subjects.

Barbara A. Pahud, MD, MPH
Director of Research in Infectious Disease
Children’s Mercy Research Institute Kansas City
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Barbara A. Pahud, MD, MPH, FAAP, is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Children’s Mercy Hospitals, Kansas City, Missouri and University of Kansas Medical Center. She is the Principal Investigator for the National Institutes of Health Sunflower Pediatric Clinical Trials Research Extension (SPeCTRE) study, as well as being a Co-Investigator in an ongoing CDC- and National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases-sponsored surveillance program for acute gastroenteritis and acute respiratory illness in children. Recently, Dr. Pahud was selected to be a member of the COVID-19 Prevention Network (CoVPN), formed by the NIAID at the NIH to respond to the ongoing coronavirus global pandemic by developing and conducting studies to ensure rapid and thorough evaluation of U.S. government-sponsored COVID-19 vaccines. She is currently partnering with the KUMC Clinical & Translational Science Institute to recruit at risk adult populations into an efficacy trial for one of the newly developed COVID-19 vaccines. She also serves as the chair of the Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines.
(ACCV) through the Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency. Dr. Pahud received her medical degree from La Salle University, Mexico City, Mexico, her master's degree in public health from Columbia University, New York, and completed her residency in pediatrics at Brooklyn, Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York. Subsequently, she fulfilled a fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases from the University of California, San Francisco, California, followed by a fellowship in vaccine safety from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with Stanford University Medical Center, Stanford, California. Dr. Pahud has presented numerous abstracts and lectured internationally, nationally, and locally on topics related to improving health in our communities through vaccination, overcoming vaccine hesitancy, and the impact of clinical trials.

Bartholomew Dean, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of Kansas

Bartholomew Dean (Oxford MPhil, Harvard Ph.D.) is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at KU and a research associate of KU's Laboratory of Biological Anthropology. He is also a research affiliate at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín (Tarapoto, Peru), where he directs the Anthropology Section of the Regional Museum. His research interest includes the Peruvian Amazon's ethnology, health, human rights, political anthropology, social theory, and ethics. Dean is active in the area of human rights advocacy.

Brent Metz
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of Kansas

Brent Metz is a sociocultural anthropologist who has conducted research and published about Ch’ortí’ Mayas in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador since 1990. He has also done applied research among Latinx migrant farmworkers in Michigan. He teaches "Indigenous Traditions of Latin America," "Indigenous Development in Latin America," "Mexamerica," "Contemporary Central America & Mexico," and other courses that cover indigenous people and migration in Latin America. Currently, he and the KU Center of Latin American & Caribbean Studies are establishing field programs and an exchange relationship between KU and the Intercultural (Indigenous) University of San Luis Potosí, Mexico.
Consuelo Perez-Sanchez, M.Sci
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology
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Consuelo Perez-Sanchez was born and raised in Mexico City, Mexico. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). While working on her master's degree, Consuelo became interested in the neurosciences and basic research. In 2016, Consuelo came to KU Medical Center to join the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences. She is now a doctoral candidate in the Department of molecular and integrative physiology, where she works in the lab of Dr. Kausik Si. As part of her research, she uses genetic, molecular and optical tools to reveal how brain circuits translate sensory information from the environment into appropriate behavioral responses in Drosophila.

Diana Restrepo Osorio, BS
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Geography
University of Kansas
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Diana L. Restrepo-Osorio is originally from Colombia, South America. She is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Kansas, where she also obtained a master's and a bachelor's degree. Her Masters in Latin American Studies emphasizes environmental problems involving water resource management in South America and Kansas. She graduated as a McNair Scholar with a bachelor's degree in Molecular Biosciences and a sociology minor. Diana has worked as a teaching assistant for the Environmental Studies program and the Geography department and served five years as an instructor and counselor with the KU Summer Science Residential Academy. In 2011, Diana received the LaTina Sullivan Memorial Award. In 2017, she received the Rusty Leffel Concerned Student Award. She was recently honored in the I Am First Too Commemorative Poster, which features first-generation individuals who have excelled as role models. Diana's current research involves water resource management and native grassland conservation in cattle ranching operations in the Southern Cone of South America. After graduating, Diana will continue working at the USGS as a Geographer aiming to improve the quality of life for local and South American communities via water resource security by preserving traditional ways of life.
Doriane Andrade Meyer, BA, MA  
Ph.D. Candidate  
Department of Architecture  
University of Kansas  
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Doriane Andrade Meyer is a Brazilian Architect and Urban Planner. She is a Ph.D. candidate in architecture with a focus on space and society at the University of Kansas. Her research analyzes the organization of the built environment of the sugarcane plantations and the significance of the space as a tool of power and control and as a tool to resist exploitation and violence. Doriane is also researching the legacy of slavery in the dwellings of Afro-Brazilian maids, which is a symbol of spatial segregation.

Erica Cruvinel, Ph.D., MPH  
Postdoctoral fellow  
Department of Population Health  
University of Kansas Medical Center  
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Erica Cruvinel holds a doctorate in psychology and master’s degree in public health from the University of Juiz de Fora in Brazil. She is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Population Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Cruvinel is a recipient of a Diversity Supplement from the National Institute of Health and her research focuses on improving the delivery of smoking cessation treatment, with emphasis on mHealth interventions for underserved populations. Her goal is to design behavioral interventions that can optimize engagement with smoking cessation medication among hospitalized smokers in the United States and low-middle income countries. Cruvinel's work has been recognized at national and international scientific conferences, and her studies have been published in several academic journals, including Nicotine & Tobacco Research and the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Francisco Martinez, MA  
Manager  
Culture and Language Coaching Program  
Children's Mercy, Kansas City  
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Francisco “Paco” Martinez, born in Mexico City, raised in San Luis Potosí, joined Children’s Mercy Kansas City as a staff medical interpreter in 2014, after 14 years as a Spanish Instructor, visiting lecturer at Northwest Missouri State University. His position now is as the manager of the Children’s Mercy Culture and Language Coaching Program with two main branches of service: First at the bilingual residents pediatric graduate program at Children’s Mercy, and second, in partner community centers through Adelante KC working with service coordinators and behavioral care providers to ensure that bilingual providers can deliver safe, culturally appropriate and complete communication in Spanish while providing care. Francisco is a strong advocate for high quality language access to health and behavioral care for all. He also serves as a commissioner for CCHI, the Certification Commission for Health Care Interpreters, and as a board member of the local chapter of the ATA, American Translators Association, MICATA.

Gibette Encarnacion
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of English
University of Kansas

Gibette Encarnación is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English at the University of Kansas. Her work is in post-1960s American literature with an emphasis on Latinx and Afro-Latinx literature. She is currently writing her dissertation on cultural trauma and race in Dominican-American novels. Her project seeks to trace the construction of Dominican history and identity and narratives that favor Whiteness and actively exclude Blackness from national belonging.

Gloria Ortiz-Guerrero, MD
PGY-2 Resident
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Gloria Ortiz-Guerrero, MD, is one of the PGY-2 neurology residents at KUMC. She was born and raised in Barrancabermeja, Colombia. She earned her medical degree at Universidad del Rosario in Colombia. She moved to Kansas City to complete a research training in the fields of Neuromuscular Disorders and Epilepsy, which ultimately led her to pursue a career in neurology.
Ileana Cepeda, MPH
Research Associate
JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health
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She is a bilingual and bicultural Research Associate for JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center and has engaged in several funded research projects that have addressed health disparities in the Latino community. She was selected for the EXITO! Cancer Disparities Research Internship in 2018, funded by the National Cancer Institute and served as a research associate and co-investigator for the JUNTOS Against Cancer project at JUNTOS and KUCC. Together worked on the development of the, Improving Latino Immigrant Access to Health Care in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area Report, and helping lead JUNTOS Radio Podcast.

Idaima Calderon
MD Candidate
School of Medicine
University of Kansas Medical Center

Idaima Calderon is a rising 3rd-year medical student at KU SOM, who is currently taking a year off to get her master’s in Public Health. Her dream is to one day use those degrees to open up her clinic that works every day to serve and uplift the Latino community, because who wouldn’t want to start hearing a little Bachata playing in waiting rooms? When she is not studying her life away, and the world isn’t falling apart, you can often find Idaima at the gym training for her next Olympic weightlifting competition

Ignacio Carvajal
Assistant Professor
Department of Spanish & Portuguese
University of Kansas

Ignacio Carvajal is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Kansas. He is affiliated to the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Indigenous Studies Program. His research interests include Mesoamerican Languages Literatures and Cultures and pedagogical approaches to less-commonly-taught and Indigenous languages. He likes riding bikes and reading and writing poetry.
Jaime Perales Puchalt, Ph.D., MPH
Assistant Professor
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Jaime Perales Puchalt, Ph.D., MPH, is an assistant professor at the KU Alzheimer's Disease Center at the University of Kansas Medical Center. His background is in psychology and public health. He has conducted research in Spain, England, and the United States, and collaborated with teams from other countries in the European Union and the Americas. His interest is understanding and reducing dementia disparities through epidemiological and intervention research. He has led to the development of a dementia educational/recruitment tool for Latinos. He has also studied the risk of dementia and mild cognitive impairment among sexual and ethnoracial minorities. Jaime's research has also contributed to understanding the role of cardiovascular health in cognitive functioning and dementia in Latin American countries.

Jairo E. Martinez, BA
Clinical Research Coordinator
Multicultural Alzheimer's Prevention Program
Harvard University

Jairo E. Martinez is a clinical research coordinator with the Multicultural Alzheimer's Prevention Program (MAPP) of Massachusetts General Hospital. He earned his bachelor's degree in neuroscience and behavior from Columbia University and aims to pursue a PhD in clinical psychology. He is currently interested in assessing the influence of stress in preclinical Alzheimer's disease as well as sex differences in subjective cognitive decline within preclinical Alzheimer's disease. Jairo is particularly interested in working with the Latinx/o/a community to inform them of health-related resources available to them and educate them about the importance of getting involved in research.

John Berrigan, BS
Medical Student
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John Berrigan, BS, grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, and went to Rockhurst High School. Then
he left for college in Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University. While in school, he worked as a medical assistant on nights in the emergency room at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and then as a research assistant at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. After he graduated, he worked for two years doing research in the Injury Control Research Center at the Harvard School of Public Health.

**John D. Cowden, MD, MPH**
*Medical Director*
*Office of Equity and Diversity*
*Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas City*

John D. Cowden is the medical director in the office of equity and diversity at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. Cowden is professor of pediatrics in the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Clinical assistant professor of preventive medicine in the University of Kansas School of Medicine. John Cowden holds a medical degree from Yale University of Medicine and a master's in public health from University of Washington. His areas of interest include pediatrics, community public health, cross-cultural health care, equity and diversity, health and health care disparities, and injury prevention.

**Juliana Camargo, Ph.D. MPH**
*Postdoctoral fellow*
*Department of Dietetics & Nutrition*
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Juliana Camargo is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Dietetics & Nutrition at the University of Kansas School of Health Professions. She received her doctorate in medical nutrition at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She also holds a master's degree in public health from State University of Campinas and a bachelor's in dietetics and nutrition from Pontifical Catholic University, both in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Camargo's research focuses on nutrition, cancer and diabetes among Latino populations. She also developed nutrition and global health research in Brazil, Colombia and Peru. Her goal is to design lifestyle interventions that can decrease nutrition-related health disparities among patients diagnosed with cancer and diabetes in the United States and Latin American countries. Camargo's work has been recognized at national and international scientific conferences, and her studies have been published in several academic journals, including Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health and Frontiers in Nutrition.
Laura Espinosa
JUNTOS intern
JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health
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Laura Espinosa is a 6th-year medical student at Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo in México, currently interning at the JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health and supporting the NIH-funded JUNTOS RADIO podcast project and the Ministerios de Salud initiative. Ms. Espinosa also serves as Research Assistant at Children's Mercy Hospital, supporting the Hispanic Dyad Study and a volunteer interpreter at the Duchesne clinic.

Laura Herlihy, Ph.D.
Lecturer
Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
University of Kansas

Laura Hobson Herlihy was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and graduated in anthropology from Tulane (1986, B.A.), University of Louisiana (1990, M.A.), and University of Kansas (2002, Ph.D.). Since 2001, Herlihy has worked as Lecturer at KU Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS). She has completed fieldwork in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean and is director of an indigenous language Study Abroad program in Honduras and Nicaragua. Herlihy sponsors and co-hosts a radio program in Bilwi, Nicaragua, to revitalize the Miskitu language and works as a Miskitu language translator in U.S. immigration court.

Mariana Ramírez, LMSW
Director
JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health
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Mariana Ramirez is the director of JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health at the Department of population health at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Commited to health and well-being of undeserved groups, Mariana specializes in cultural and linguistic adaptation of health research to enhance its reach and effectiveness with the Latino community. Mariana is a licensed master social worker in the states of Kansas and Missouri, with a master's of social work degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Mariana has managed a variety of projects including programs focused on promoting community
awareness of cancer prevention, nutrition, immigrant health, smoking cessation, and diabetes prevention. She was honored with the Rising Star award from the PRIME Health Foundation in 2015 and the Nuestra Latina award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2018 for her significant contributions to health and health care in Greater Kansas City.

**Mariola Acosta Rullán, MS**  
*Psy.D. Student*  
*Alzheimer's Disease Center*  
*University of Kansas Medical Center*  
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Mariola Acosta Rullán, MS, is a third-year doctoral student in clinical psychology at the Ponce Health Sciences University in Puerto Rico. She has a master's degree in clinical psychology. Acosta Rullán was selected to be part of the Kansas Dementia & Aging Research Training Internship Program at the KU Alzheimer's Disease Center. She is interested in dementia care and disparities among ethnic minorities due to the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease in Latinos.

**Martha Henao Villa, MD**  
*MPH Student*  
*Department of Pediatrics*  
*University of Kansas - Wichita*  
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Martha Henao Villa, MD is the Program Manager for the Baby Talk program at the Pediatrics department at KU School of Medicine - Wichita. In the program, they offer free prenatal education to moms in Sedgwick County. The program's goal is to reduce infant mortality rates by teaching them safe sleep, breastfeeding, taking care of themselves and their babies, and having a healthy lifestyle. She holds a Medical Doctor degree from Universidad CES in Colombia, her native country where she had her first encounter with public health—being in contact with patients, especially in rural and underprivileged areas of a developing country. She became interested in public health after seeing the struggles these communities go through. She is currently an MPH student at KU-Wichita and looks forward to where her experience, combined with public health skills and knowledge, might take her next. Her passion is to keep helping the Hispanic community as much as she can through this journey.
Miriam Yataco  
*Indigenous Language Rights Activist*  
*Peru*

Miriam Yataco is an Indigenous Peruvian-born language rights advocate, an expert in bilingualism, and a trained sociolinguist. Her research explores language policies, language rights, language discrimination, and Indigenous education, and it draws upon sociocultural, sociolinguistic, and decolonial perspectives. She focuses on comparative analysis inspired by alternative epistemologies, including those from the global South. For 22 years, she was at the Steinhardt School of Culture & Education faculty at New York University. Her current research is an ethnographic study of the impact of the pandemic on indigenous Amazonian populations. All her work honors human rights.

Mónica Fracachan Cabrera, MD  
*Research Assistant*  
*JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health*  
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Mónica Facharán Cabrera, MD, is originally from Venezuela. She studied and graduated as a surgeon in Venezuela and specialized in Otolaryngology at the Central University of Venezuela. She currently works as a research assistant at JUNTOS-KUMC with the Type 2 Diabetes prevention program through text messages among the Latino population of Kansas City, Kansas.

Paul Espinoza Kissell, BS  
*Post-Bac Student*  
*Alzheimer’s Disease Center*  
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Paul Espinoza Kissell is currently a post-baccalaureate research education student at the University of Kansas. PREP is a program that prepares and transitions students into a biomedical/behavioral sciences graduate program. Paul graduated from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. He is also developing and implementing an independent research project with KU Medical Center faculty mentor Jaime Perales.
Robert Schwaller, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of History
University of Kansas

Robert C. Schwaller is an associate professor of history at the University of Kansas. He received his Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University. His research focuses on the history of race and African and Afro-descended individuals' experiences in early Spanish America. His book Géneros de Gente in Early Colonial Mexico: Defining Racial Difference (University of Oklahoma Press, 2016), examines the development of racial categories in early New Spain. His research has appeared in The Americas, The Journal of Social History, and Rechtsgeschichte/Legal History, among other journals. He also serves as a co-editor of the journal Ethnohistory.

Roberto Tahay Tzaj
Indigenous Language Activist
Guatemala

Roberto Tahay Tzaj is an Indigenous language activist from Nahualá, Sololá, Guatemala. He has worked as an assistant to the Maya Summer Language Institute in Guatemala and participated in the Festival of Indigenous Languages Online in 2019. He is an amateur filmmaker and likes reading, soccer, and hiking.

Romina Barral, MD MScR
Assistant Professor
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Romina Barral is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the KU School of Medicine, specializing in adolescent medicine. Her research focuses on decreasing disparities in reproductive health care for Latinx youth in the United States. She is a published expert on contraception for adolescents as well as sexual transmitted diseases, including immunological aspects of HIV and chlamydia cervicitis in adolescents. Her work more lately has focused on describing obstacles to reproductive health care access among Latinx adolescents in rural communities. As a Latina physician scientist with
reproductive health expertise, she advocates for women's health both in the community and at Children's Mercy Hospital, as well as for the diversification of health care work force, to better serve our community as a whole.

**Silvia Sánchez-Díaz, MA**

*Ph.D. Candidate*

*Department of Anthropology*

*University of Kansas*

*silviasanchez@ku.edu*

Silvia Sánchez-Díaz, MA, is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Anthropology at KU. Her research investigates the impact of economic change in the lives of indigenous people in Guatemala. Her academic year goals include becoming proficient in Maya Kaqchikel (an indigenous language in Guatemala), completing a graduate certificate in museum studies, adding more ethnographies and articles onto her literature review, and running a half marathon. She is very passionate about social justice and teaching!

**Valeria Macias**

*Research Assistant*

*JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health*

*University of Kansas Medical Center*

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Valeria Macias is a medical student from Mexico working on her last year of community service with JUNTOS. Her goal at JUNTOS is to learn more about how medicine is developed in other countries like the United States and learn more about the barriers immigrants may face when seeking health care services.
Thank you for helping to make the 2020 Hispanic & Latinx Heritage Month Virtual Research Day possible.

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health
Latino Medical Student Association
Office of International Programs
School of Medicine Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Student Diversity Council
Student National Medical Association
The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Cabinet
University of Kansas Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science Chapter (KU SACNAS Chapter)

SPECIAL THANKS

2020 Hispanic & Latinx Heritage Month Virtual Research Day Planning Committee:
Alexa Smith, Brenda Linares, Carlos Guzman, Chris Powers, David Brown, Diana Acevedo, Erica Cruvinel, Ileana Cepeda, Jaime Perales Puchalt, Janet Montelongo, Jerrihlyn McGee, Juliana Camargo, Kendra Cruz, Kimberly Connelly, Kyle Rampetsreiter, Laura Espinosa, Letycia Nunez-Argote, Lillian Saavedra, Maria Alonso Luaces, Mariana Ramírez, Mariola Acosta, Marta Caminero-Santangelo, Michaela O’Connor, Mónica Fracáchan Cabrera, Nellie Modaress, Olivet Martínez, Paul Espinoza Kissell, Ruth Ramos, Sarah Irene Frederick, Tamara Falicov, Tynara Formagini, and Valeria Macias.