



WORKING TO ELIMINATE MINORITY HEALTH DISPARITIES IN NEW YORK'S SMALL CITIES

## *Our new Presidential Doctoral Fellowship for Research Training in Health Disparities Fellow*



GUILLERMO ESCANO, MA

Guillermo Jesús Escaño is a doctoral student at the University at Albany, SUNY in the department of Criminal Justice. He completed his M.A. as part of his capstone and explored anti-homicide strategies on Mexico's state murder capital: Guerrero. In addition, Guillermo recently presented his research on Honduras' homicide trends in Mexico City, Mexico at the VII Latin American Conference and II Mexican Conference on Drug Policy. His most recent professional experience was with the New York Police Department as a Summer Graduate Intern with the

Office of Crime Control Strategies. As part of the Rx Initiative, he analyzed the trend of opiate overdose in New York City in collaboration with other state agencies to strengthen tools to capture real time data. After completing his undergraduate career, Guillermo has worked in various capacities in the public health and criminal justice sector.

His main topics of interest are: Homicide Trend; Time-Series Analysis; Intersectionality of Criminology & Public Health; Drug Trafficking; Organized Criminal Groups; Drug Policy; Homicide Spatial Analysis; Anti-Crime Strategies; Urban Sociology; and Mixed Method Methodology. His research focuses mostly on factors that influence homicide trends in the United States and Latin America. In addition, Guillermo has a deep interest in the intersectionality of public health and the criminal justice system such as how drug policy and homicide can impact life expectancy in concentrated disadvantage communities. His interest arises from the role that violence and crime played in his upbringing in the South Bronx and working directly for years with communities impacted on said interest. The role that crime and violence greatly affected his family's native countries situated in Latin America furthered his interest. Guillermo has been able to study abroad in Brazil, Chile and Argentina exploring the role that violence has had on these respected nations and the surrounding region.

Through the Presidential Doctoral Fellowship for Research Training in Health Disparities, as well as his training as a doctoral student, Mr. Escano hopes to promote anti-crime measures that considers humane public health methods to avert adverse consequences.

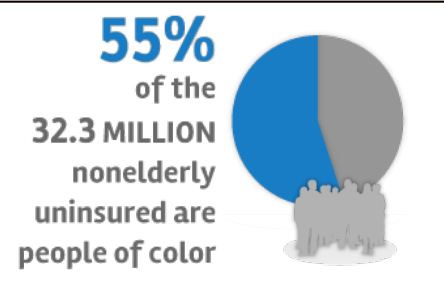
## Newsletter Winter/Spring 2020

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### FAST FACTS

#### Health and Health Care by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Artiga, S et al. <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/report/key-facts-on-health-and-health-care-by-race-and-ethnicity/>

- **People of color face significant disparities in access to, and utilization of, care.** Nonelderly Asians, Hispanics, Blacks, and American Indians and Alaska Natives face increased barriers to accessing care compared to Whites and have lower utilization of care. There remain large gaps in data for understanding access and utilization of care for Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders.
- **Blacks and American Indians and Alaska Natives fare worse than Whites on the majority of examined measures of health status and outcomes.**
- **Despite coverage gains under the ACA, nonelderly Hispanics, Blacks, and American Indians and Alaska Natives remain significantly more likely than Whites to be uninsured.** Overall, people of color account for more than half (55%) of the total 32.3 million nonelderly uninsured. There are a number of differences in the characteristics of the nonelderly uninsured by race and ethnicity that affect their eligibility for coverage and that may help inform outreach and enrollment efforts.

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## CEMHD Research Associate Spotlight: An Interview with Dr. Archana Krishnan

CEMHD volunteer Dayna Conyers, a senior Public Health major, recently sat down to talk with Dr. Archana Krishnan, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication. Dr. Krishnan studies how mHealth, the practice of medicine and public health supported by mobile devices and a form of health communication, has helped bridge health disparities. In one study, Dr. Krishnan focused on people in Connecticut living with HIV. She explains that people in this vulnerable population were having trouble accessing adequate health care and getting in contact with health care providers. Because of this, many of them were not being properly treated for their condition. Giving people basic mobile phones with which they can easily get in contact with their providers, get sent reminders to take their medication as well as reminders of when to get refills, etc. drastically helped the number of people consistently taking their medication and increased the number of people receiving medication. Dr. Krishnan explains that people who are not vulnerable or in underdeveloped societies use technology for health but also for other things such as entertainment. While this technology makes our lives easier, it is transformative for those in vulnerable populations. In developing societies, mobile phones led to a leapfrog effect, where the vulnerable population essentially bypassed traditional communication technology while reaping the benefits of new technology. mHealth is an important form of health communication because it addresses many public health concerns such as diabetes, TB, and HIV and continues to help bridge health disparities and promote a healthier society.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual President's Forum on Health Disparities

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the University at Albany and CEMHD hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> President's Forum on Health Disparities, entitled "*The Role of Epigenetics in Health Disparities*." Attending were our partners from Downstate Medical Center, members of our campus community, colleagues from across institutions of higher education, along with our healthcare and community-based partners. The forum provided an arena for the exchange of ideas, new concepts and solutions, and opportunities for professional development and networking to foster future research and scholarly collaboration.

The Forum featured as its keynote speaker **Dr. Cathrine Hoyo**, an epidemiologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at North Carolina State University, and co-leader of the Integrative Health Science Facility Core in the Center for Human Health and the Environment. She is serving as the PI responsible for the development and maintenance of the Newborn Epigenetics Study (NEST), a birth cohort following children currently ages 3-5 years.

Prior to Dr. Hoyo's presentation, there were introductory remarks by Havidán Rodríguez, Ph.D., our university President; Lawrence M. Schell, Ph.D. (Forum Co-Chair), and Director of the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities; Dr. Jim Dias, our University Vice President for Research, and Dr. Moro Salifu, Chief of the Division of Nephrology at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.



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