



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 ESCAÑO, M.A.

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.

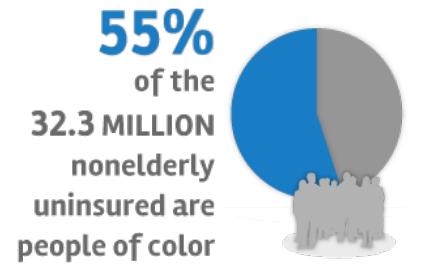
Newsletter Winter 2019/Spring 2020

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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.

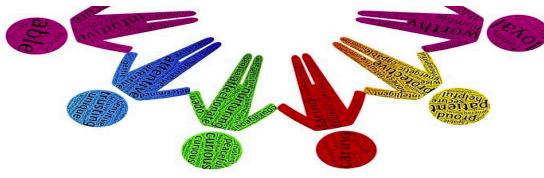
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El otro lado de la medalla incluye seis presentaciones de profesores de la SUNY Downstate Universidad que incluyen "Las Exposiciones Prendables al Plomo y la Depresión Inflyuen Conjuntamente en los Resultados de los Nacimientos y la Metilación del ADN NR3C1" (Allison Appleton, SCD, MPH), "Influencia de la Epigenética en las Disparidades Raciales en el Cáncer de Seno Triple Negativo" (Jason Hershkowitz, Ph.D., MPH), "Edad Epigenética Diferencial Pública" (Gabriel Schliomer, Ph.D.); "Los Carcinomas de la Prostata en los Afroamericanos Tienen una Expressión de mARN Distintiva y Marcadores Biológicos para un Mal Pronóstico" (Ravai Gupta, M.D.); y "Disparidades Raciales y Ética en las Pruebas de VIH y la Captación de PRP Entre Hombres Negros y Latinos que Tienen Sexo con Hombres en el Estado de Nueva York" (Sabina Hirshfield, Ph.D.).

Antes de la presentación del Dra. Hoyos, "Exposición al Círculo Gestacional, Respuseta Epigenética y Disfunción Metabólica en Descendientes Negros, Hispanos y Blancos", hubieron comentarios introductorios hechos por Havidán Rodríguez, Ph.D., Presidente de UAlbany, Lawrence M. Schell, Ph.D., Vicepresidente del Foro y Director del Centro para la Eliminación de las Disparidades de Salud de las Minorías; Dr. James Dias, Vicepresidente de Investigación de UAlbany; y el Dr. Moro Salifu, jefe de la División de Neurología de la Universidad de Salud SUNY Downstate.

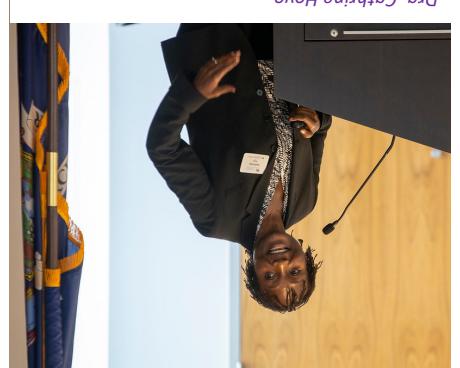
Estdo de Carolina del Norte y Co-lider del Centro de Cineclás Integrales Salud en el Centro para la Salud Humana y el Medio Ambiente, quien se desempeña como Presidente del Desarrollo y Mantenimiento del Estudio de Epigenética de Recien Nacidos (NET), una cohorte de nacimientos que sigue a niños que actualmente tienen entre 3 y 5 años.

Dres. Lawrence Scheil Y James Dias



El 15 de noviembre de 2019, la Universidad de Albany y CEMHD llevaron cabo el Segundo Foro Anual del Presidente sobre Desigualdades de Salud, titulado "La Parte de la Epigenética en las Desigualdades de Salud". La epigenética es el estudio de mecanismos biológicos que, a través de la dieta, los factores estresantes o los contaminantes ambientales, activan y desactivan los marcadores genéticos en las células. El estudio de la función de las proteínas en el cuerpo. El estudio de la epigenética ofrece un enfoque diferente para tratar la enfermedad al encotrar formas de eliminar un marcador genético en forma de ADN. En última instancia, este "interruptor" cambia la forma en que funcionan las proteínas en el cuerpo.

Segundo Foro Anual del Presidente sobre Discapacidades de Salud





Dr. Cathrine Hoyo

2nd Annual President's Forum on Health Disparities

On November 15th, 2019, the University at Albany and CEMHD hosted the 2nd Annual President's Forum on Health Disparities, entitled "*The Role of Epigenetics in Health Disparities*." Epigenetics is the study of biological mechanisms that, through diet, stressors or environmental pollutants, switch gene markers on and off rather than by altering the genetic code in the form of DNA. Ultimately, this "switch" changes how proteins work in the body. The study of epigenetics offers a different approach to treating disease by finding ways to remove a bad epigenetic marker or adding a good one.

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.

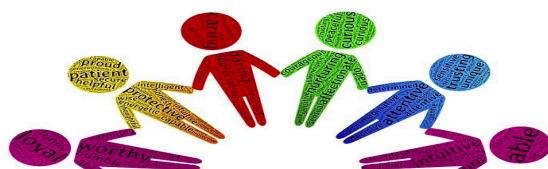
Prior to Dr. Hoyo's presentation, "*Gestational Cadmium Exposure, Epigenetic Response and Metabolic Dysfunction in Black, Hispanic, and White Offspring*", there were introductory remarks by Havidán Rodríguez, Ph.D., UAlbany's President; Lawrence M. Schell, Ph.D., Forum Co-Chair and Director of the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities; Dr. James Dias, UAlbany's Vice President for Research; and Dr. Moro Salifu, Chief of the Division of Nephrology at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.

The forum also included six UAlbany and SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University faculty presentations including "*Prenatal Lead and Depression Exposures Jointly Influence Birth Outcomes and NR3C1 DNA Methylation*" (Allison Appleton, ScD, MPH); "*Influence of Epigenetics in Racial Disparities in Triple Negative Breast Cancer*" (Jason Herschkowitz, Ph.D., MPH); "*Epigenetic Age and Pubertal Development*" (Gabriel Schloemer, Ph.D.); "*Prostate Carcinomas in African-Americans Have Distinct miRNA Expression and Biological Markers for Poor Prognosis*" (Raavi Gupta, M.D.); and "*Racial and Ethnic Disparities in HIV Testing and PrEP Uptake among Black and Latino Men Who Have Sex with Men in New York State*" (Sabina Hirshfield, Ph.D.).

Following the presentations, there was an interactive panel discussion exploring the challenges of epigenetic research. The panelists were David Carpenter, M.D. (Director, Institute for Health and the Environment; Professor, Department, Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, UAlbany); the presenters Drs. Cathrine Hoyo, Gabriel Schloemer, and Jason Herschkowitz; and Hayward Horton, Ph.D. (Professor, Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences, UAlbany).



Drs. Lawrence Schell and James Dias



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