



¡VIVA LA SALUD!

The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Health Sciences (CHS) Health Disparities Conference
September 12, 2025
UTEP Campus – EPNG (Across from UTEP Main Library)

AGENDA

8:30 am - 9:00 am CHECK-IN: COFFEE & PASTRIES

9:00 am - 9:10 am WELCOME
Dr. C. Scott Kruse, Dean
The University of Texas at El Paso College of Health Sciences

9:10 am - 9:20 am HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH at UTEP
Dr. Ahmad M. Itani, Vice President for Research & Innovation
The University of Texas at El Paso

9:20 am - 9:30 am INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. John Wiebe, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
The University of Texas at El Paso

9:30 am - 10:30 am KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Title: *Advancing Health Equity in an Evolving Environment*
Dr. Marshall H. Chin, MD, MPH
Richard Parrillo Family Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine
Associate Chief and Director, General Internal Medicine Research Director,
Chicago Center for Diabetes and Translation Research Director, MacLean
Center for Clinical Ethics

10:30 am - 10:50 am Q & A



10:50 am - 11:30 am

IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES: THE ROLE OF MEDICAID, PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICE, AND FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS AS CATALYSTS FOR SYSTEM CHANGE

MODERATOR: Dr. Eva Moya, Social Work Department Chair
The University of Texas at El Paso

PANELIST:
Gabriela Mendoza, Health Equity Supervisor
El Paso Health

Dr. Veerinder “Vinny” Taneja, Director
City of El Paso Department of Public Health

Dr. Tim Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Project Vida

Dr. Cristina Paz, Chief Executive Officer
Centro San Vicente

Christian Garcia, Administrator
Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe

11:30 am - 11:50 am

Q & A

11:50 am - 12:30 pm

LUNCH & CHS STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER SESSION
(Refer to End of Agenda for Student Poster Listing)

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH & SERVICE IN HEALTH DISPARITIES

Title: *The Burden of Dual Diagnosis - Understanding Diabetes and ADRD Among Hispanic Older Adults with Medicare in the US-Mexico Border Region*

Dr. Alfonso Rojas-Alvarez
Department of Public Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences

Title: *Social Policy Retrenchment and Health in a US-Mexico Border City*

Dr. Gregory S. Schober
Rehabilitation Science Program, College of Health Sciences

Title: *Development of a Gender Affirming Voice Clinic*

Dr. Patricia Lara
Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, College of Health Sciences

1:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Q & A

1:45 pm - 2:00 pm

CLOSING REMARKS
Dr. C. Scott Kruse



UTEP HEALTH SCIENCES



UTEP STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER INFORMATION

1. Student: Bryan Monroe

Title: *Housing Security and Health - Evidence from El Paso, Texas*

Faculty Mentor: Gregory S. Schober

2. Students: Dave Arellano, Mary Williams

Title: *The Intersection of Functional Limitations and Well-Being - Exploring the Mediating Role of Resilience and Psychological Distress in Minorities with Multiple Sclerosis*

Faculty Mentor: Beatrice Lee

3. Student: Denise N. Chacon-Portillo

Title: *Driving Male Participation - The Diabetes Garage Retention Rates and Recruitment Success Through Personal Communication in a Car-Themed Diabetes Management Program*

Faculty Mentor: Jeannie B. Concha

4. Student: Dziedzorm Wormenor

Title: *Comparative Determination of Mitochondrial Biomarkers and Their Relationship with Insulin Resistance in Type 2 Diabetes Patients*

Faculty Mentor: Kisuk Min

5. Student: Eleanor Solis

Title: *Unlocking Joy - The Intersection of Social Participation and Happiness for Minority Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis*

Faculty Mentor: Beatrice Lee

6. Students: Joshua Tullius, Angel Melendez

Title: *From Hardship to Hope - The Role of Childhood Activities in Physical and Emotional Regulation Among Displaced Children*

Faculty Mentor: Georgina Sanchez-Garcia

7. Student: Leonardo Vinicius Thome Teixeira da Silva

Title: *What Makes Life Worth Living? The Association Between Meaning in Life and Resilience in Minorities with Multiple Sclerosis*

Faculty Mentor: Beatrice Lee





8. Student: Linneth Morales

Title: *Breaking Barriers: Unraveling the Impact of Disability-Related Stress on Social Participation in Minorities with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)*

Faculty Mentor: Beatrice Lee

9. Student: Michelle Gil

Title: *Gender and Ethnic Differences in Mental Health Outcomes in Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Youth and Young Adults in Texas and California, 2022 – 2024*

Faculty Mentor: Oralia Loza

10. Student: Nagueia Leticia de Medeiros

Title: *Telehealth-Based Mobility Assessment in Hispanic Stroke Survivors - Validity of The Five Times Sit-to-Stand Test Using Low-Cost Technology and AI*

Faculty Mentor: Camila Torriani-Pasin

11. Students: Nayeli Esparza, Abigail Torres, Melissa Torres

Title: *How Hardship Affects a Child's Vocal Expression and Communication*

Faculty Mentor: Georgina G. Sanchez

12. Students: Samantha Garcia, Pablo Valdez Velador

Title: *The Intersection of Stigma and Social Participation in Minority Multiple Sclerosis Communities*

Faculty Mentor: Beatrice Lee

13. Student: Stanley Chinedu Eneh

Title: *Perception, Willingness, and Acceptance of Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Malaria in Children (IPTc) Among Mothers of Children Under-5 Years Old in Ile-Ife, Nigeria - Addressing Malaria-Related Health Disparities*

Faculty Mentor: Yok-Fong Paat

14. Student: Yazbel Arriaga

Title: *Health Disparities in Spinal Cord Injury Outcomes at 12-months - Results from the National Spinal Cord Injuries Model Systems (NSCIMS) Dataset*

Faculty Mentor: Shashwati Geed