

Dear HNS community,

My name is Daniel Saldana, and I was born and raised in Perth Amboy, New Jersey—a town with a predominantly Hispanic population. I was raised by parents of Peruvian, Mexican, and Puerto Rican heritage, aunts and uncles from various other Latin American countries, and lived in Peru for a few years when I was younger. Being a second generation American has allowed me to reflect on the opportunities I was afforded as well as the challenges I encountered in furthering myself personally, academically, and professionally. The resiliency I have fostered is thus rooted in my experiences growing up bicultural.

I am in my sixth year as a clinical psychology doctoral candidate at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, with an emphasis in neuropsychology and currently a psychology intern at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with the Hispanic Neuropsychiatric Center of Excellence (HNCE). Throughout graduate school, I took every opportunity to work with minority populations, particularly the Latinx community. As a bicultural, bilingual student and clinician, I realized I was in a prime position to contribute to underserved and underrepresented communities. During my training, I lead several community outreach programs aimed at treating adolescents and young adults with trauma-related mental health difficulties. In many cases, the traumatic experiences were faced during the challenging immigration process to seek asylum. I have worked with lawyers, paralegals, healthcare providers, as well as supervisors and mentors in advocating for my patients by providing adequate and culturally responsive psychotherapy as well as neuropsychological and psychoeducational assessment. I have been a neuropsychology trainee at different academic medical centers in New York City, New Jersey and now California. I have had the opportunity to work with both English and Spanish-speaking board-certified supervisors/mentors who have modeled best practice and cultural humility when evaluating multilingual/multicultural populations and challenged me to consider these models and acknowledge the individual as a whole when evaluating and working with every patient.

If you vote for me as your student representative elect, I vow to continue to advocate for patients of underserved and multicultural, multilingual backgrounds by promoting mentorship and supervision of students within the HNS community and beyond. As I further my training, I believe I have learned and continue to learn from my experiences, and I am enthusiastic to share my knowledge and experiences with colleagues. I will work to increasingly strengthen the bonds of the HNS *familia* to assist students at all levels of training toward their professional goals and toward creating a neuropsychology where cultural contributions are ingrained and not merely considered. To all my fellow members and colleagues: Let's work toward a neuropsychology for all.