

Rosario DeLeon, PhD

Candidate Statement

I earned a B.A. in Psychology from The University of Texas at Austin, and an M.A. in Psychology and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (neuropsychology track) from the University of Houston. I completed internship at the Children's Assessment Center in Houston, then a postdoctoral fellowship at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Dell Medical School Department of Neurology. My professional time is spent in a combination of clinical work in our epilepsy and cancer programs, training of future neuropsychologists, and research. My current research interests include examining bilingualism as a protective factor for executive functions in pediatric cancer, neuropsychological phenotypes in pediatric temporal lobe epilepsy, and effectiveness of language-concordant care in epilepsy. I have held leadership positions in the past including President of the Austin Neuropsychological Society, Director of Bilingual Services and Training at the Texas Child Study Center, and co-chair for the Texas Child Study Center Diversity Committee. As the primary bilingual pediatric neuropsychologist in the area, I have seen firsthand the need to promote equity in neuropsychological services for the bilingual population. Consistent with the goals of the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society, this is a multifaceted endeavor that starts at the level of the trainee, moves to the level of the professional, and extends to the field as a whole. The goals I hope to pursue as an HNS Member-at-Large are consistent with my experience and interests. In addition to promoting the larger goals of the Society, I hope to collaborate with and support other members of the Executive Committee in extending the mentorship program, developing guidelines for training in bilingual neuropsychology, and promoting research on bilingual populations. As bilingual neuropsychologists, our team is small but growing, and we have much work to do. I would be honored to contribute as a Member-at-Large.