Hola HNS Familia,

Welcome to the first edition of the HNS Newsletter. I would like to thank our committee chairs who made this happen with special thanks to Dr. Kayleen Ball, Communications Chair and Dr. Yakeel Quiroz, Member at Large. Our hope is that this quarterly publication will allow us to showcase the work of our HNS members, provide updates from the board, and allow us to get to know you better through our member spotlight and Chisme corner where you can let us know about your personal updates. I know many of you are shy about accomplishments, but I encourage you to submit.

First, I would like to provide a brief update on the Minnesota Update Conference and the process leading up to this as HNS has been heavily involved and well represented. It has been a pleasure for me to serve as the HNS representative alongside Dr. Jose Lafosse for the past year on the Planning Commission. As we transition now to the conference being held September 12-16th in Minneapolis, MN, I want to highlight HNS members who are taking part. Drs. Monica Rivera Mindt and Tony Puente will be serving as content panelists. Drs. Adrianna Strutt, Jose Lafosse, Tish MacDonald, Rachel Casas, and Luis Medina will be serving as delegates. I will also continue serving on the Steering Committee. Please check out the website for regular updates https://minnesotaconference.org/updates/

I also want to highlight the upcoming HNS Heritage Month 2022. Under the direction of our new Science Committee Chair, Dr. Franchesca Arias, we have put together a series entitled Emerging Voices in Neuropsychology. This year, the presentations will all be led by trainees and the CE event this year is on Considerations for Psychological and Neuropsychological Evaluations with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities. Please check out the HNS website for more details. We hope you will join us this year starting on Wednesday, September 21st with the HNS Awards Ceremony. Come and celebrate this year’s winners with us.

Finally, I would like to invite you all to attend the HNS Business Meeting held during NAN in early October. The official date and time will follow, and we anticipate we will have a virtual option.

I wish each of you an excellent start to this new academic year and look forward to meeting new members, reconnecting with old friends, and giving you un fuerte (or virtual) abrazo.

Attentamente,

Veronica Bordes Edgar, PhD, ABPP
President, Hispanic Neuropsychological Society
Hispanic Heritage Month

AWARDS CEREMONY WED 21 SEPT

Surviving Graduate School as Students from Minoritized Backgrounds: Rights & Self-Advocacy THU 29 SEPT

Considerations for Psychological and Neuropsychological Evaluations with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities THU 06 OCT

1.5 CE Credits Offered

3–4:30pm PDT/6–7:30pm EDT

Registration & Additional Info: https://hnps.org/hhm-2022/
Dear HNS Familia,

It is an absolute pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society’s quarterly newsletter. We are proud to present this issue as the 34th year of Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States commences. Social justice, advocacy, and delivering culturally competent care to the Hispanic and Latino/a/e/x communities feel especially pressing during the current climate. Despite great strides, there continues to be much work to be done on all fronts and we hope to bring awareness to these issues and celebrate advances in neuropsychology. The current issue will highlight member and student accomplishments, provide member updates, and provide fun content for our readers. Additionally, we are featuring the authors of “Hispanic Neuropsychologists in the United States: What do we know about them and how can the field address their needs?” in a spotlight Q & A column for Hispanic Heritage Month.

We will be centering each issue around a theme, and we hope you will all continue being loyal readers as our publication evolves. Our mission is to bring thoughtful and engaging commentary to the HNS community. Anyone is welcome to submit their work for publication in our newsletter and we hope to garner interest among all membership levels.

The creation of this first issue involved the talent of many people. I would first like to thank the HNS Board of Directors for trusting the communications committee and their member-at-large to take on this project and for your support throughout the process. The HNS newsletter would not be possible without the communications committee members, whom all volunteered additional time outside of their regular communications roles to produce this issue. A very special thank you to our newest members Paola Velázquez and Demy Alfonso, who joined us in the middle of this special project and were instrumental in its publication. Thank you all!

The HNS newsletter would also like to thank the authors from our spotlight Q & A column. To doctors, Juan Carlos Arango Lasprilla, Walter Rodríguez-Irizarry, Rafael E Oliveras-Rentas, Daniela Ramos-Usuga, Isabel Gonzalez, Paula Karina Perez, and Ivonne Romero-García, thank you so much for your contribution to our first issue. We are honored to have you in our publication!

Finally, as you can see, the HNS newsletter was left unnamed. We are hoping our members will help us name our publication. Stay tuned for polls/voting via our social media platforms, we encourage all members to vote!

We hope you enjoy the first issue of the HNS newsletter!

¡Mil Gracias!
Kayleen Ball, PsyD
Communications Chair, Hispanic Neuropsychological Society
Conversation with authors

Q & A with the authors of the paper:

"Hispanic Neuropsychologists in the United States: What do we know about them and how can the field address their needs?"

What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

Hispanic Heritage Month means the opportunity to become aware, to recognize, and remember those individuals and groups identified as Hispanics who promoted a positive influence in the United States culture. It is not about differentiating the Hispanics from other ethnicities, but a reminder that this diverse heritage continues to make inevitable contributions, including the advances in scientific knowledge, education, and services to the United States population.

Why is this article important for Hispanic neuropsychologists and trainees to read?

Although there is literature on the practice of neuropsychology in the U.S., little is known about the work of Hispanic neuropsychologists in this country. The findings of our study expand that knowledge base, by describing the current profile of Hispanic neuropsychologists in the U.S. This evidence can provide practitioners as well as trainees with a source of ideas for further research on concerns that affect the practice of neuropsychology. It can also help raise awareness about the specific ethnic/racial disparities voiced by participants. Making those concerns part of the current discussion on possible interventions and actions to improve all areas of our profession.

How does this article impact the future of training for aspiring Hispanic neuropsychologists?

Knowing part of the reality involved in the professional practice of Hispanic neuropsychologists may help students be critical of their training and practice, and of the profession in general. Aspiring Hispanic neuropsychologists are the future of our profession, and as such, we hope that they obtain the support needed to confront the challenges and to actively insert themselves in organizational actions to transform the field’s much needed diversity and inclusiveness.
What were the motivations for this work?

Our motivation was to disclose a part of the reality that many Hispanic neuropsychologists experience, not only in terms of discrimination but also the characteristics of their work in different areas such as evaluation, rehabilitation, teaching, and research, with the aim of understanding the similarities and differences between ourselves and non-Hispanic neuropsychologists in the U.S. For us, this is extremely important since the demographic trends in the U.S. are shifting to an increasingly diverse country, and thus, patient base.

How representative was your sample and how did you assemble it? If you could change anything about the collection methods, what would it be?

The survey was conducted through an online platform and distributed through the listservs of U.S Neuropsychology associations as well as shared in the social networks of various professional groups. The sample consisted of 107 Hispanic neuropsychologists residing among the 50 United States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, which probably represent one-third of Hispanic neuropsychologists in this country. We estimate a sampling error of 5 percent. All participants completed a doctoral degree, most identified themselves as Mexican or Caribbean and resided in Florida, Texas, and California. This data is consistent with population estimates and other studies about neuropsychologists in the U.S.

In the future, data could be collected via mail or telephone to recruit participants who did not respond electronically. Also, a mixed or qualitative design could be integrated to allow for a deeper understanding of the Hispanic neuropsychologist's experience.

What are the main conclusions of this work?

As stated on page 119 of the article, “our findings confirm that Hispanic neuropsychologists in the U.S. are culturally diverse, present with varied levels of bilingualism, have been faced with discrimination during training and in their workplace, and compare favorably with non-Hispanic neuropsychologists in terms of education and clinical training.” The study also documents that “systemic racism persists within the field of neuropsychology. This situation is clearly manifested by the study’s participants, many of whom had been subjected to discriminatory practices, had fewer professional opportunities, and received salaries beneath those of their non-Hispanic counterparts. The racial disparities extended to inadequate availability of neuropsychological instruments in Spanish for the increasing Hispanic population in the U.S.”
What are the future directions of this work?

We understand that our study has great heuristic value. Thus, we suggest that future studies consider the incorporation of analyses that permit Hispanic intergroup comparison, survey neuropsychologists from other ethnic groups, and use qualitative methodology to obtain a more in-depth understanding of the experience of Hispanic neuropsychologists in the U.S.

In addition, we believe that the study has relevant practical implications. There is an urgent need to reduce the barriers for Hispanics to access training in neuropsychology. Some ways to do this are to develop mentoring programs and to increase Hispanic participation in academia and research. To achieve these aspirations, it is important to develop a unified and assertive Hispanic leadership.

"SYSTEMIC RACISM PERSISTS WITHIN THE FIELD OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY"

Would you consider making this a periodic publication for Hispanic Neuropsychologists?

We expect that these results would assist individuals and organizations in addressing the identified needs of our colleagues and future neuropsychologists. Therefore, revisions of how they are addressed and exploration of the subsequent situations are going to be required over the next years.

Lasprilla, J., Rodríguez-Irizarry, W., Oliveras-Rentas, R. E., Ramos-Usuga, D., Gonzalez, I., Perez, P. K., & Romero-García, I. (2022). Hispanic neuropsychologists in the United States: What do we know about them and how can the field address their needs?. NeuroRehabilitation, 51(1), 101–121. https://doi.org/10.3233/NRE-210333
Publications
- Priscilla Amofa, Andrea Mejia-Kurasz and their fabulous colleagues published a great paper:

Advanced Training
- Denise Oleas completed her Master's in Arts Degree!
- Dr. Bliss Quintana started her Fellowship in Neuropsychology at Jackson Health System in Florida.
- Christopher González started practicum at University of Illinois Medical Center in the Adult Neuropsychology Track.
- Four of our members started their internship year!
- Jéssica Orobio: Neuropsychology Service at Children's Health Medical Center
- Andrea Mejia-Kurasz: James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa
- Rita Rivera: Duke University
- Karen A. Dorsman: PM&R at UTSW.
Gladiliz Rivera Delpin is a Research Psychology Master’s student at the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras. She is currently the president of the Sociedad Neuropsicológica Estudiantil at her university.

She recently completed a summer internship at the Multicultural Alzheimer's Prevention Program in Boston.

She passed her comprehensive exam and will be starting a new position as Research Assistant at the Center for Alzheimer's Research and Treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Anny Reyes, PhD is a neuropsychology postdoctoral fellow at UC San Diego. She completed her doctoral degree in clinical psychology specializing in neuropsychology at the SDSU/UC San Diego Joint Doctoral Program and her neuropsychology internship at Emory School of Medicine.

Dr. Reyes’ research interests include studying the effects of epilepsy on cognition and understanding and reducing epilepsy-related health disparities.

Clinically, she is interested in cultural neuropsychology and offering clinical services to Spanish-speaking patients. Dr. Reyes is passionate about diversifying the field of neuropsychology and promoting culturally-informed research, clinical practice, and training.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Michelle Miranda will be joining the faculty at the University of Colorado School of Medicine Department of Neurosurgery as the new bilingual neuropsychologist and director of diversity, equity, and inclusion of the department.

Dr. Tish MacDonald has accepted a faculty position at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center/Children's Health - Dallas.

CONGRATULATIONS

RECOGNITIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following HNS members on their wonderful accomplishments!

NAN 2022 Tony Wong Diversity Award - Mentor Recipient: Dr. Juan Carlos Arango-Lasprilla

NAN 2022 Tony Wong Diversity Award - Early Career Recipient: Dr. Anny Reyes

WIN's The WINnners Box Award Recipient: Dr. Diomaris Safi
A big THANK YOU to our HNS representatives at the Minnesota Neuropsychology Conference!

From left to right: Drs. Adriana Macias Strutt, Luis Medina, Monica Rivera Mindt, Beatriz (Tish) MacDonald, Veronica Bordes Edgar, Jose Lafosse
Guess that baby! 

Answers will be available in our next issue!

Veronica Bordes-Edgar, PhD

David Lechuga, PhD

Karen Dorsman, BA

Paola Suarez, PhD

Angela Canas, PhD
Recent Publications


Lasprilla, J., Rodríguez-Irizarry, W., Oliveras-Rentas, R. E., Ramos-Usuga, D., Gonzalez, I., Perez, P. K., & Romero-García, I. (2022). Hispanic neuropsychologists in the United States: What do we know about them and how can the field address their needs?. NeuroRehabilitation, 51(1), 101–121.https://doi.org/10.3233/NRE-210333


Welcome to the chisme corner, a fun place to share personal updates or fun cultural tidbits (i.e., Abuela’s recipes)!

OYE, ESCUCHASTE QUE?

• Janet Yañez is getting married to Salvador Gutierrez in Santa Barbara, CA on October 10, 2022.
• ¡AY MI MADRE! Dr. Kayleen Ball is expecting TWIN boys, due December 2022.
The HNS mission is to promote the competent practice of neuropsychology with Spanish-speaking populations. HNS seeks working relationships with existing organizations in order to promote training and research, which will yield high standards in neuropsychological practice with the ethnically diverse Hispanic population.

For feedback or submissions, please email communications@hnps.org

Please visit https://hnps.org for more information

Stay tuned for polls/voting via our social media platforms for newsletter naming, we encourage all members to vote!

HNS Newsletter Credits

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