Cultural Diversity Committee Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3 ♦ September 2019

Cultural Diversity Committee Updates

Upcoming INSAR Regional Meeting:

Puerto Varas, Chile

October 17-19, 2019.

For more information, please visit:

https://www.insarchile2019.cl/?lang=en

If you would like to be featured or would like to nominate someone to be featured in the Spotlight section of our newsletter, have any upcoming publications, or know of any resources that are related to cultural diversity and autism, let us know!

Contact email: culturaldiversitycommittee@autism-insar.org

For more information about our committee activities, visit:

https://www.autism-insar.org/page/CultDiv
Dr. Cecilia Montiel-Nava, a bilingual clinical psychologist, holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV), an M.S. in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University Maryland, and a B.A. in Psychology from the Universidad Rafael Urdaneta (Venezuela).

Dr. Montiel-Nava’s research focuses on four topics: 1) Understanding ethnic disparities among children with autism spectrum and neurodevelopmental disorders, 2) ADHD and its comorbid disorders, 3) Evidence-based interventions that can be carried out by parents of children with developmental delays in underserved populations, and 4) Validity and acculturation of diagnostic instruments. Her research has as an ultimate goal to reduce the gap in access to services that identify and treat neurodevelopmental disorders to improve the quality of life of Rio Grande Valley (RGV) residents in Texas, United States.

She was born and raised in Venezuela. Since 1989, she has been involved in clinical work and research with children with neurodevelopmental disorders living in underprivileged areas in Venezuela; and in recent years collaborating with other LAMIC. She lived in Venezuela until 2015 when the political situation forced her and her family to emigrate. From abroad, she has kept working on research projects with colleagues and students in Venezuela.

She conducted an ASD prevalence study that was the first attempt to estimate prevalence rates in a Latin American country that also mentioned the use of screening and diagnostic instruments translated into Spanish. You can read more about the study using this link: Epidemiological findings of pervasive developmental disorders in a Venezuelan study. Later, by studying the age and types of first parental concerns, age of first ASD diagnosis, and factors associated with age of first diagnosis, she presented data about the impact of culture on early identification, which you may find it here: Age of diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder in Latino children: The case of Venezuelan children.

Since 2015, she has been involved with Red Espectro Autista Latinoamérica (Latin American Autism Spectrum Network [REAL]), that aims to foster international collaboration for research in Latin American countries. She is also a member of the WHO/AS team for the implementation and evaluation of WHO Caregivers Skills Training (CST) pilot projects in various countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uruguay). Her longer-term goals include developing a package for early identification and early intervention that could be broadly and freely administered in underserved populations in the valley. As a clinician, researcher, and human being, she wants parents to feel that their socio-economic status, ethnicity, or location are not another hurdle to overcome in the road to gain a better outcome for their child. She is an author of two books and more than 45 research reports, articles, and book chapters.
INSAR Summer Research Internship in Autism Spectrum Disorder and Cultural Diversity

Call for applications: *Early October, 2019*
Informational session: *Mid-October/Early November, 2019*
Application due date: *Early December, 2019*

In recognition of the increased need for the field of autism to incorporate global perspectives and issues of cultural diversity in scientific research, the INSAR Cultural Diversity Committee invites research proposals from highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students interested in cultural diversity issues relevant to autism spectrum disorder (ASD). For more information, visit: [https://www.autism-insar.org/page/SummerInternship](https://www.autism-insar.org/page/SummerInternship)

INSAR Cultural Diversity Research Award in Autism Spectrum Disorder and Cultural Diversity

Call for nominations: *Early January, 2020*
Nominations due date: *Early February, 2020*

The Cultural Diversity Research Award seeks to support and recognize research with significant impact on culturally diverse and underserved communities. The goal of the award is to support investigators who conduct community-based or community partnered research that seeks to leave a lasting impact on underserved and under-researched communities beyond the scope of a single research study. For more information, visit: [https://www.autism-insar.org/page/CulturalDiversityRA](https://www.autism-insar.org/page/CulturalDiversityRA)