Cultural Diversity Committee Newsletter
Volume 5, Issue 1 ♦ January 2020

Cultural Diversity Committee Updates

Happy 2020! We hope your new year is off to a great start. We have exciting activities planned for everyone interested in cultural diversity and autism research throughout the year and during the annual meeting. For more information about our committee activities, visit: https://www.autism-insar.org/page/CultDiv

Cultural Diversity Research Award
Nominations are due January 31

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

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
Maria Elizabeth (Liz) Jaramillo is a second year PhD student in Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her research interests include service delivery models for children with developmental disabilities in Lower-Middle Income Countries. She is currently doing work related to bilingual and monolingual language assessment among children in global settings.

A career involving cross-cultural work, both within the U.S. and globally, was something that Liz was always drawn to and which she attributes to her bicultural upbringing. As an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, studying Latin American Studies, she developed a strong interest for bilingualism, global cultures and social justice. During her masters training in Speech-Language Pathology, she specialized in bilingual language development, including cross-cultural assessment and intervention for children with developmental delays.

Liz has worked as a Speech Language Pathologist with bilingual immigrant populations in Wisconsin. She has also worked in school and community settings in Belize and Guatemala to increase school inclusion for children with disabilities. To pave a career that combines global health methodologies with speech-language pathology and child development, she completed a masters in global public health from Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health (‘18).

As a recipient of the INSAR Summer Internship (2019) award, Liz traveled to Austin, Texas to work with Dr. Sandy Magana at the University of Texas Steve Hicks School of Social Work. The aim of her summer project was to better understand how Hispanic mothers describe their child’s autism symptoms as elicited by the ADI-R Spanish (Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised; Lord, 1994). Her project began with a qualitative analysis of how U.S. based Latinx mothers respond to select items on the ADI-R. Additionally, she conducted cognitive interviews with mothers of children with autism who reside in Guatemala. The development of assessment tools that are appropriate for culturally and linguistically diverse populations is important for the collection of accurate surveillance data and equitable health service delivery. Developmental assessment is an area of research which poses opportunities to increase social justice and health equity.

The INSAR summer internship was an instrumental experience in many ways. The internship has provided a wonderful opportunity to explore and apply qualitative methodology. It also has deepened her understanding of the literature related to her topic area. Liz is grateful for the opportunity to develop a relationship with and receive mentorship from Dr. Magana. Having experience in the process of developing a proposal, conducting a research project and preparing a presentation has been rewarding and helped her in the planning of her future doctoral dissertation work.
Recent Publications

Open Access Articles


Regular Access Articles


Resources

**Global Research in Autism and Neurodevelopment (GRAND)** – “GRAND is an online worldwide community enabling people working on autism and neurodevelopmental disorders to share knowledge, tools, and resources, raise awareness and develop innovative strategies and interventions.” The network is a free resource, you can learn more by visiting: *The Global Health Network*.

**Global Partnerships on Children with Disabilities (GPcwd).** “The GPcwd provides a platform for collective action and advocacy to ensure that the rights of children with disabilities are included in and prioritized by both the disability and child rights agendas at the global, regional, and country levels. “ For more information, please visit their website: [GPcwd](http://www.globalpartnerships.org/). To access their recent Early Childhood Taskforce Newsletter, please visit: *Early Childhood Development Task Force*.

**DisabilityMeasures.org** has developed a website ([www.disabilitymeasures.org](http://www.disabilitymeasures.org)) for sharing freely available disability assessment and measurement tools. We are seeking collaborators to recommend measures for inclusion and provide feedback for the future development of this tool.

**Sesame Street and Autism: See Amazing in All Children.** The website [http://autism.sesamestreet.org/](http://autism.sesamestreet.org/) (English & Spanish) contains videos for children and parents, along with daily routine cards, storybooks, and other resources for children, families, and friends.

---

**INSAR Cultural Diversity Committee**

- Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp
- Sandra Vanegas
- Gulnoza Yakubova

---

Follow us on social media!

- [@AutismINSAR](http://twitter.com/AutismINSAR)
- [Facebook.com/autismINSAR](http://facebook.com/autismINSAR)
- [www.autism-insar.org](http://www.autism-insar.org)