

**2021 International
Conference on
Aging in the
Americas**



**Resilience and
Aging in the
Americas
Sept. 23-24, 2021**

Highlights

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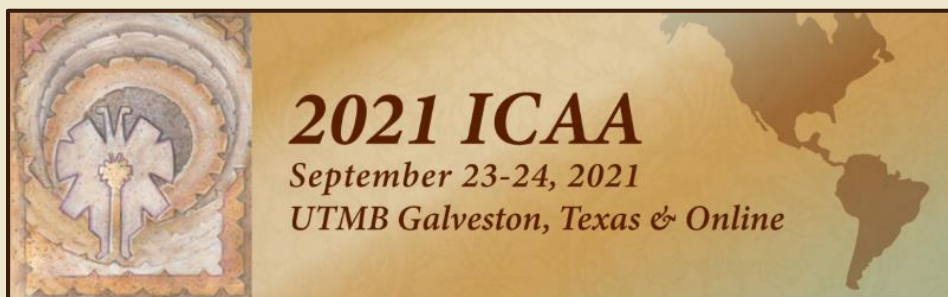
Acknowledgments

CAA in Context

2020 Grant Writing Workshop

2021 Online Galveston Conference

2022 Chicago Conference



Organizers ~ CAA Advisory Group & Investigators

CAA Advisory Group

Flavia Andrade ~ Maria Aranda ~ Elena Bastida ~ Eileen Crimmins ~ Martha Daviglus ~ Verónica Montes de Oca ~ Hector González ~ Mary Haan ~ Terrence Hill ~ Octavio Martinez ~ Mariana López-Ortega ~ Silvia Mejía ~ Fernando Riosmena ~ Luis Gutiérrez Robledo ~ Rogelio Sáenz ~ V. Nelly Salgado de Snyder ~ Steven P. Wallace (2001-2021) ~ Rebeca Wong

Emeritus

Mark Hayward ~ Alberto Palloni



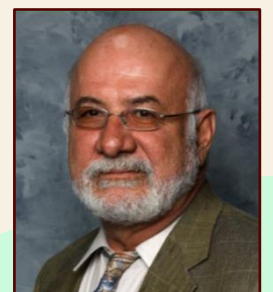
Jacqui Angel
Principal Investigator



Fernando Torres-Gil
Co-Investigator



William Vega
Co-Investigator



Kyriakos Markides
**Co-Investigator
Organizer**



Phil Cantu
**Organizer
Former Mentee**



Rogelio Sáenz
Organizer



Verónica Montes de Oca
Organizer

Program ~ September 23, 2021

1:00 pm -1:30 pm CST Opening Remarks

- ~ Jacqueline Angel – The University of Texas at Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs
- ~ Octavio Martinez – Executive Director – Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
- ~ Kristen Peek – University of Texas Medical Branch – Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences



Octavio Martinez



Rebeca Wong



Kristen Peek

1:30 pm CST – 2:30 pm CST Keynote Speaker

- ~ Rebeca Wong, University of Texas Medical Branch – “About resilient aging – Evidence using the Mexican Health and Aging Study”

2:30 pm CST – 3:30 pm CST Sessions 1 “Defining Resilience Conceptually and Methodologically”

- ~ Discussant – Ladson Hinton, UC Davis
- ~ Luis Miguel Gutierrez Robledo, Instituto Nacional De Geriatria – “Resilience in aging from a dynamic systems perspective”
- ~ Silvia Mejia, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte – “Psychological correlates of cognitive resilience”
- ~ Sunshine Rote, University of Louisville – “Social aspects of resiliency in a caregiving context”

3:30 pm CST – 5:00 pm CST Emerging Scholar Mentoring Session

3:30 pm CST – 4:00 pm CST One-on-One Zoom Mentoring

4:00 pm CST – 4:30 pm CST Emerging Scholar Introductions

4:30 pm CST – 5:00 pm CST Panel on Funding for Early Career Scholars ~ Frank Bandiera, NIH/NIA/ERP, Brian Downer, University of Texas Medical Branch, Joseph Saenz, University of Southern California, and Jacqueline Angel, The University of Texas at Austin

Program ~ September 24, 2021

1:00 pm -2:00 pm CST Session 2 “COVID -19 and Latinos”

- ~ Rogelio Saenz, University of Texas San Antonio, and Marc Garcia, Syracuse University – “COVID-19 death trends among older Latinos: 2020 and 2021”
- ~ Verónica Montes de Oca (IISUNAM-SUIEV) & Telésforo Ramírez (CRIM-UNAM y CONACYT) – “Vulnerability and resilience in older persons in COVID-19 pandemic in México”
- ~ Kyriakos Markides and Phillip Cantu, University of Texas Medical Branch – “COVID-19 and The Hispanic Established Population for the Epidemiologic Study of the Elderly”

2:00 pm -3:00 pm CST Session 3 “Aging Latinos and Research from the Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR)”

- ~ Chair – Lourdes Guerrero, UCLA
- ~ Romero Escobar, UTRGV
- ~ Ángela Gutiérrez, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine
- ~ David Camacho, University of Maryland
- ~ Sandra Arévalo, CSU Long Beach

3:00 pm CST – 3:30 pm CST The Steve Wallace Poster Award Presentation –

- ~ Awards – Terrence Hill, University of Texas San Antonio and Adriana Reyes, Cornell – Memorial Bill Vega, FIU

3:30pm CST – 5:00 pm CST “2021 ICAA Consensus Building Session”

- ~ Flavia Andrade University of Illinois Urbana Champagne and Stephanie Grasso, University of Texas Austin

Poster Session Judges

Joseph Saenz (USC) ~ Laura Upenieks (Baylor) ~ Robyn Brown (Kentucky) ~ Brian Downer (UTMB) ~ Mariana Lopez-Ortega (INGER) ~ Nelly Salgado de Snyder (UNAM, UT Austin)



Terrence Hill
**Poster Session
Organizer**



Adriana Reyes
**Poster Session
Organizer**

This year, our community lost an invaluable scholar, activist, and friend.

“Steve was a leading scholar on aging in communities of color and a renowned expert on immigrant health and health policy for immigrants. He focused on identifying social determinants of health inequities in different populations, primarily older adults and immigrants, with the goal of devising ways of improving the health of those populations through public policies, community interventions, and community capacity building. He is widely recognized for introducing concepts such as the social determinants of health into discussions of health and social care for Latino and immigrant populations, the elderly, and other vulnerable populations long before such ideas became mainstream. ... Steve led with light and resolve, and was an indispensable force for good in our community. We will all miss seeing him enter our building, bike helmet in hand, and the sound of his joyful laughter. Yet Steve’s legacy will only continue to grow. The many talented students and scholars Steve mentored will carry their shared values and determination forward, and contribute to a markedly more equitable tomorrow.”

- UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Dean Ron Brookmyer



To honor his legacy, the CAA proudly presents the Steven P. Wallace Poster Session.

2021 Steven P. Wallace Poster Session Winners

3rd prize: Chinedu Onwudebe

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
ckonwude@utmb.edu

2nd Prize: Xiaoying Yu

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
xiyu@utmb.edu

1st Prize: Yejin Kang; Phillip Cantu; Kyriakos Markides

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
yekang@utmb.edu

Mentoring Program ~ Emerging Scholars

Our Emerging Scholars:

Publish in Leading Peer-reviewed Journals ~ Enter ICAA Juried Poster Sessions ~ Submit R01, R03, R21, R24, and K01 Grants for Research ~ Attain NIA Postdoctoral Fellowships, NIA Traineeships ~ Attain Academic, Public Health, Preventive Medicine, & Government Positions

Our Emerging Scholars Continue Their Studies At:

Harvard ~ Cornell ~ Brown ~ Michigan ~ Chicago ~ Dartmouth ~ Penn State ~ UC Los Angeles ~ UC San Francisco ~ UC Davis ~ Illinois ~ Southern California ~ UC Berkeley ~ UT Medical Branch ~ UT San Antonio ~ UT Austin ~ Louisville ~ Syracuse ~ Oregon State ~ Albany ~ Mount Sinai Hospital ~ American Osteopathic Association ~ Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, ~ Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México ~ among countless others

Panel on Funding for Early Career Scholars



Jacqui Angel
Panel Mentor



Frank Bandiera
Panel Mentor



Brian Downer
Panel Mentor



Joseph Saenz
Panel Mentor

This conference held a panel on methods and practices for obtaining funding for research and projects for emerging scholars. The CAA seeks to nurture the future of scholarship in aging and resilience studies, and our panels serve this goal.

2020 Grant Writing Workshop

In the wake of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 ICAA was postponed to 2021. Ever adapting, the CAA held an online workshop for emerging scholars to cultivate their grant proposal writing skills in lieu of that year's conference. The workshop was well-received, and mentoring programs such as this could be incorporated in further iterations of the conference series.

"Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the 2020 ICAA Grant Writing Workshop hosted by the Texas RCMAR. It was a very informative session and nicely organized. It was great to have Dr. Frank Bandiera and to hear from him and to hear the Q&A discussion from our colleagues and participants." ~ Early Career Investigator

Consensus Building Session

Twenty-eight scholars came together to discuss concepts in the field of aging. Five tables, incorporating different linguistic approaches, worked to build a consensus on topics in the study of resilience. Results of the session are forthcoming.

Questions for Consensus Building

What does resilience mean conceptually? (i.e., frameworks and domains)

What are characteristics of resilience? (i.e., variables and measurements)

What are unique contexts of caregivers and what is their role resilience?

Consensus Building Moderators

Spanish Table: Mariana Lopez-Ortega & Verónica Montes de Oca

English Tables: Kyriakos Markides

Stephanie Grasso

Lisette Piedra

Bilingual Table: Fernando Torres-Gil & Jacqui Angel



Flavia Andrade
Co-organizer



Stephanie Grasso
Consensus Moderator
Co-organizer



Mariana Lopez-Ortega
Consensus Moderator



Lisette Piedra
Consensus Moderator

Conference Comments

“Overall, this was a relatively new topic for me so I value the knowledge and discussion in the consensus meeting.”

“This was the best online conference I have ever attended. The speakers had a range of expertise that allowed for a deep exploration of resiliency from multiple perspectives (psychological, biological, sociological, and cultural) and application to the health and care of aging Latinos in the Americas. This conference was helpful for reframing research from challenges to sources of resiliency that can be harnessed in intervention efforts to reduce and eliminate health disparities.”

“En lo particular, para mí todo fue muy importante. Yo no minimizaría nada.”

“I thought the virtual 2021 ICAA was a tremendous success...[overcoming] the many travel restrictions many of us had and made possible our participation. ... I felt the speakers were right on point to the issues of the day (kudos to the organizers). I was most interested in the poster presentations and the Emerging Scholar Introductions and the Emerging Scholar Mentoring Sessions. ... Look forward to the next one.” *- Jorge Lambrinos*

Consensus Building Session

Read the full Consensus Summary compiled by Flavia Andrade [here](#).

Objective: To better understand the concept of resilience, the theoretical frameworks, measurement, and how the conceptual definition should consider aspects specific for Latino and Mexican populations.

Meeting Conventions: Group; migration to five breakout groups via the Zoom platform, where each group had at least one moderator.

Group Linguistics: Four groups had conversations conducted in English, and one was bilingual.

Guiding Questions:

- 1) What does resilience mean conceptually? (i.e., frameworks and domains),
- 2) What are the characteristics of resilience? (i.e., variables and measurements and methods), &
- 3) How might we contextualize our conceptual definitions and methods specific to the Latino and Mexican Populations?

After discussing all three questions in the breakout rooms, all participants returned to the main room. Moderators were asked to summarize the discussions, and participants provided further comments.

Consensus #1: resilience as the ability to cope and adapt positively in the face of adversity, trauma, and stress; multi-dimensional, with different types of resilience; participants highlighted the need to understand resilience using a whole life perspective; reconceptualization of resilience studies from combatting cumulative disadvantages to accumulating advantages and ways to adapt throughout life; resilience crosses several disciplines and spans multiple, complex levels of relationships as it forms and evolves, thusly ecological perspective is crucial; important to incorporate social context and environment to understand resilience and its change over time.

Consensus #2: emphasize the need to collect data on individual and macro-level social determinants that shape resilience; consider stressors, mechanisms, and outcomes; identify adequate measures of adversity (trauma, stigma, racism, discrimination, and stress), complementary biomarkers (cortisol and allostatic load), and the critically overlooked aspect of agency (individual and collective); agency measured by processes in which individuals act on their behalf or when social groups act together; measuring intrapersonal factors (internal locus, self-efficacy, and self-esteem), cognitive flexibility, community involvement (social engagement, connections, and social adaptations); all measurements and data collection should consider multilevel and longitudinal dimensions; individual studies may not incorporate all levels of complexity, limitations continue forth as variables are selectively focused upon.

Consensus #3: incorporate into concepts of resilience the experience of culture, norms, values, and religion of older adult Latino and Mexican populations, including pride and aspirations for diverse groups of Latinos and Mexicans; address essential gender perspective and the feminization of aging; account for intersectionality of stressors critical in assessing resilience, specifically issues related to ethnicity, gender, migration, and legal status; address social and economic contexts such as work and living conditions and broader policies.

Looking Ahead ~ Future Projects

Journal of Aging and Health special issue

Deadline for submission ~ December 1st, 2021

Decision Editors ~ Rogelio Sáenz ~ Verónica Montes de Oca ~ Jacqueline Angel

Editor-in-Chief ~ Kyriakos Markides



2021 ICAA Investigators at GSA in Austin

“Care in Context: Dementia Support in Mexico and the U.S.”

Organizers ~ Dr. Sunshine Rote, Chair and Jacqui Angel, Co-Chair

Meeting ~ November 10-13; CATMOD/Zoom; Austin, Texas (U.S.)

Agenda ~ with Discussant, William Vega, PhD., Distinguished Professor, Senior Scholar for Community Health, Florida International University

~ **When Strangers Become Family: The Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Care of Older People** ~ Ronald Angel, UT Austin, and Veronica Montez de Oca – Coordinadora del Seminario Universitario Interdisciplinario sobre Envejecimiento y Vejez de la UNAM, Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico

~ **Dementia and Living Arrangements among Mexicans and Mexican Americans** ~ Phillip Cantu, PhD, University of Texas Medical School – Galveston

~ **Living Alone in Late-Life** ~ Jacqueline Torres, PhD, University of California – San Francisco

~ **Living Beyond 80: A Longitudinal Study of Cognitive and IADL Disablement Among the Oldest Mexican Americans** ~ Jiwon Kim, M.A., UT Austin; Jacqueline Angel, UT Austin; Sunshine Rote – University of Louisville

~ **Framing Binational Challenges of Mental & Cognitive Healthcare in Mexican-origin Older Adults: Consensus Findings** ~ Stephanie Grasso, PhD, CCC-SLP, UT Austin; Flavia C. Andrade – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Mariana López-Ortega, Investigadora Ciencias Médicas – National Institute of Geriatrics, National Institutes of Health, Distrito Federal, Mexico; Emma Aguila – University of Southern California – Los Angeles, California



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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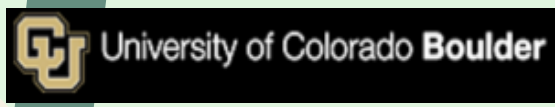
Twitter: @caa_team

CAA Website: <https://sites.utexas.edu/caa/>

Reconocimientos ~ Acknowledgements



The conference is being funded in part by a (R13) Scientific Meeting Grant from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) No. AG029767-01A2.





**Included within the Highlights for ICAA 2021
An agenda is provided for CAA's part in the GSA 2021 Meeting**

A G E N D A
In-person and ICAA Zoom Meeting*
Normandy Scholars Meeting
(Room 2.606) Austin, Texas

Welcome*

*12-1:00 pm CDT- Lunch and 2022 ICAA Planning- Flavia Andrade, Fernando Riosmena, Martha Daviglus (Co-organizers)

1-2:30 pm CDT (GSA Cadmium- Registration ID)- Presentations by ICAA Investigators and Early Career Scholars

GSA Symposium Organizers ~ Dr. Sunshine M. Rote, Chair and Jacqui Angel, Co-Chair

Care in Context: Dementia Support in Mexico and the U.S.

Due to rapid demographic and health transitions, the number of people with dementia is rising in the Americas, and is expected to double in the coming decades, increasing to 14.8 million in 2030 to over 27 million by 2050. The aging trend predominates in the Mexican-origin populations in Mexico and in the Southwestern United States, where more than half of older Mexican Americans 65 and older reside. For Mexico, financial support for older low-income citizens and medical care are universal rights, but limited fiscal resources and the needs of a large low-income population create inevitable competition for limited resources among the old and the young. Although the United States has a more developed economy and well-developed Social Security and health care financing systems for the elderly, older Mexican-origin individuals in the U.S. do not necessarily benefit fully from these programs. The institutional and financial problems are compounded in both countries by longer life spans, smaller families, as well as changing gender roles and cultural norms. Such changes affect the Mexican-origin population in particular because of a higher prevalence rates of cognitive impairment than other racial and ethnic groups, and the lower access to resources used to provide all of the care an older adult with dementia might need in both nations. In this GSA Symposium, the authors of four papers deal with the following topics as they relate to dementia care in Mexico and the United States.

2021 ICAA Investigators at GSA in Austin

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2. **Dementia and Living Arrangements among Mexicans and Mexican Americans** ~ Phillip Cantu, PhD, University of Texas Medical School – Galveston
3. **Living Alone in Late-Life** ~ Jacqueline Torres, PhD, University of California – San Francisco
4. **Framing Binational Challenges of Mental & Cognitive Healthcare in Mexican-origin Older Adults: Consensus Findings** ~ Stephanie M. Grasso, PhD, CCC-SLP, UT Austin; Flavia C. Andrade – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Mariana López-Ortega, Investigadora Ciencias Médicas – National Institute of Geriatrics, National Institutes of Health, Distrito Federal, Mexico; Emma Aguila – University of Southern California – Los Angeles, California

*2:30-3pm Break

*3:00-4:30 pm 2021 ICAA Planning Committee: **Join via Zoom**
<https://utexas.zoom.us/j/98725527505>

4:30-5 pm 2021 ICAA Special Issue (Rogelio Saenz, Vero Montes de Oca, J. Angel)

Dinner

6:00 pm