

International Conference on Aging in the Americas

Conference Program

Chicago, Illinois • September 23–25, 2026

Wednesday, September 23

Time	Program
5:00 – 8:00 PM	Welcome Reception & Dinner

Thursday, September 24

Time	Program
8:30 – 9:00	Opening Remarks Dean Lisa Mason University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (TBC) Dean Carlos Crespo University of Illinois-Chicago Frank Bandiera National Institute on Aging Jacqueline Angel University of Texas-Austin Flavia Andrade University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Emma Aguila University of Southern California
9:00 – 9:30	Overview & Reflections Kyriakos Markides University of Texas-Galveston
9:30 – 9:45	Break
9:45 – 10:25	Keynote <i>Introductions (5 min) • Keynote (25 min) • Q&A (10 min)</i> Hiram Beltrán-Sánchez — Keynote speaker University of California-Los Angeles
10:25 – 11:45	Session 1 — Socioeconomic Disparities & Migration <i>10 min per speaker, followed by discussant remarks and open discussion</i> Jennifer Van Hook Penn-State University <i>“Aging into Precarity Among Latino Immigrants”</i> Adriana Reyes Cornell University <i>“Obligation or Capacity? Race, Informal Financial Transfers, and Wealth in Later Life”</i> Patricia Morton Wayne State University <i>“Childhood Socioeconomic Status and Later-Life Systemic Inflammation: Exploring the Moderating Role of Education for Black, White, and Hispanic Americans”</i> Ben Shaw — Discussant University of Illinois Chicago
11:45 – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 – 2:30	Session 2 — Families, Communities & Caregiving <i>10 min per speaker, followed by discussant remarks and open discussion</i> Sunshine Rote University of Louisville <i>“Beyond the Household: Strengthening Support Networks for Mexican American Dementia Caregivers”</i>

Time	Program
	Iveris Martínez California State University <i>"Preparing to Care: Providing Services for Latinos with Dementia and Their Families"</i> Jenjira Yahirun Bowling Green State University <i>"Kin Availability and Proximity in the United States: Nativity Differences Among U.S. Older Adults"</i> Zhiyong Lin University of Texas at San Antonio <i>"Closing the Care Gap: Social Isolation, Dementia, and Unmet Care Needs in Later Life"</i> Nekehia Quashie — Discussant University of Rhode Island
2:30 – 2:35	Break
2:35 – 3:50	Poster Session Adriana Reyes — Chair Cornell University Terrence Hill — Chair University of Texas at San Antonio Elizabeth Vasquez — Poster judge University of Albany
3:50 – 4:00	Break
4:00 – 5:00	Mentoring Session Phil Cantu University of Texas at Austin David Camacho University of Illinois-Chicago
5:00 – 5:10	Break
5:10 – 5:50	Mentored Publications Session Rogelio Sáenz University of Texas- San Antonio Christian Vasquez University of Texas-Arlington
6:30 PM	Dinner

Friday, September 25

Time	Program
8:30 – 9:20	Session 3 — Emerging Scholar Lightning Session (in person) 50-minute session • 3 speakers + moderator + discussion Barbara Mendez Campos Boston University <i>"When Medical Bills Cost More Than Money: Latino Dementia Caregivers in California"</i> Fernando Hernandez-Lepé Urban Institute <i>"Post-Caregiving Labor Market Outcomes Among Hispanic and Immigrant Former Caregivers in the U.S."</i> Mayra Sánchez González Johns Hopkins University <i>"Sustaining Older Adults' Wellbeing: An Intervention's Promising Benefits and the Challenge of Uptake"</i> Nicholas Bishop — Moderator University of Arizona
9:20 – 9:35	Break

Time	Program
9:35 – 10:50	Session 4 — Caregiving Interventions <i>10 min per speaker, followed by discussion</i> Maggie Ramirez University of Washington <i>“Using A.I. to Support Latino Family Caregivers Managing Behavioral Symptoms of Dementia”</i> Kylie Meyer Case Western Reserve University <i>“CONFIDENCE: An Intervention to Manage Financial Strain Among Latino Family Caregivers to Persons Living with Dementia”</i> Jacqueline Torres University of California San Francisco <i>“Transforming a Birth Cohort Study to Evaluate Understudied Social and Environmental Determinants of Midlife Cognitive and Reproductive Aging: the CHAMACOS Maternal Cognition Study”</i> Fran Grodstein & Liliana Gómez Flores Ramos — Gómez Flores Ramos presenting Rush University & Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública México <i>“ESMaestras / Mexican Teachers Cohort Ancillary Study of Aging and Cognition”</i> Brian Downer — Moderator The University of Texas at Austin
10:50 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:15 PM	Session 5 — Panel on Interventions & Technology <i>10 min per speaker, followed by panel discussion</i> Elizabeth Munoz The University of Texas at Austin <i>“Psychosocial and Environmental Contexts of Cognitive Health in U.S. Latinos: Advancing Real-World Approaches to Successful Aging”</i> Wendy Rogers University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <i>“Harnessing the Potential of Technology to Enhance Social Engagement for Older Adults”</i> Jennifer Salinas University of Texas at El Paso <i>“50k4Life: A Lifestyle Intervention to Promote Walking Among Mexican Americans in El Paso, Texas”</i> Seoyoun Kim — Moderator University of Michigan
12:15 – 12:30 PM	Closing Remarks Thanks to attendees and notes on next steps.
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch - Boxes

External reviewer: Kristine J Ajrouch University of Michigan

Rapporteur: Nicholas Bishop University of Arizona