

2023 APA/HP AE Fellows



Anna E. Epperson

University of California, Merced

Pronouns: she, her, hers

Bio: Dr. Epperson earned her PhD in health psychology from the University of California Merced and completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention at Stanford University. Her research focuses on racial/ethnic disparities in health behavior, exploring how social and cultural factors impact health, particularly in Indigenous communities. Dr. Epperson's work includes the development and implementation of health behavior interventions [e.g., increasing vaccination uptake], projects that are active collaborations with impacted communities. She identifies as an Indigenous female (enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma).

<https://sites.ucmerced.edu/aeperson>

Primary Areas: Health disparities; sociocultural factors; community interventions; Indigenous health; vaccines; tobacco



Caroline Cummings

Texas Tech University

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Bio: Dr. Cummings earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno. She completed her clinical internship at Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Cummings has dedicated her career to the study of emotion and self-regulation, and their relations to health and health behaviors in adolescents and young adults with chronic/complex illnesses (e.g., overweight/obesity, type 1 diabetes, pain). She also integrates a bioecological approach to her work, including consideration of how various culture-specific factors may influence health and behavior. Dr. Cummings identifies as a Black woman who is passionate about promoting health equity in all aspects of the

research process, and has a passion for mentoring and supporting emerging clinical scientists from diverse backgrounds.

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/psy/people/ccummings/>

Primary Areas: Physical activity, Overweight, Obesity, Type 1 diabetes, Adolescents, and Ecological momentary assessment



Diana A. Chirinos

Northwestern University

Pronouns: She, her, hers.

Bio: Dr. Chirinos earned her PhD in Clinical Health Psychology from the University of Miami. She completed her clinical internship at Rush University Medical Center, and her postdoctoral work in psychoneuroimmunology and sleep medicine at Rice University and Northwestern University, respectively. Her work focuses on understanding the role of demographic and psychosocial factors as determinants of the cardiovascular health. Specifically, she is interested in (1) characterizing the cardiovascular risk profile of vulnerable populations, such as ethnic minority adults or bereaved individuals; and (2) elucidating the biobehavioral pathways underlying the relationship between chronic stressors and cardiovascular disease outcomes. Her long-term goal is to design well-informed targeted interventions to reduce the burden of chronic stress and cardiovascular disease among vulnerable populations.

<https://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/faculty-profiles/az/profile.html?xid=43425>

Primary Areas: cardiovascular disease; depression; sleep disturbances; minority health.



Giselle K. Perez, PhD

Harvard University

Pronouns: she/her/hers/ella

Bio: Dr. Perez completed her PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Connecticut and her pre- and postdoctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH)/Harvard Medical School (HMS). She is an Assistant Professor at HMS as well as a staff psychologist and associate director of the AYA program at MGH. Dr. Perez's research focuses on developing and implementing behavioral and mind-body interventions to improve coping, adjustment, resilience and overall outcomes in patients throughout the cancer spectrum. Her work examines the physical, psychosocial, and biobehavioral effects of stress and stress interventions. Dr. Perez identifies as a first-generation Latina who is committed to cancer survivorship, AYA health and health equity research.

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/health-happiness/people/giselle-perez-phd/>

Primary Areas: Cancer Survivorship, Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) survivorship, Stress, Intervention Development



Marcia Tan, PhD, MPH

The University of Chicago

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Bio: Dr. Tan earned a PhD in clinical health psychology from the University of Miami and an MPH in epidemiology from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. She completed postdoctoral fellowship as an NCI T32 fellow in Cancer Prevention and Control at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Her work focuses on health disparities in modifiable cancer risk factors, including tobacco use and obesity, and cancer prevention among underserved populations. Specifically, she examines biopsychosocial and behavioral factors that contribute to disparities in cancer, and conducts community-based health behavior interventions to reduce risk factors among

disparity populations. Dr. Tan identifies as a Black woman.

<https://health.uchicago.edu/faculty/marcia-tan-phd>

Primary Areas: tobacco cessation, obesity, health disparities, cancer prevention and control, community-engaged research



Melissa Flores, Ph.D.

University of Arizona

Pronouns: she/her

Bio: Melissa Flores, Ph.D., is a postdoctoral scholar in The Department of Psychology at The University of Arizona. Dr. Flores has been awarded an NIH K99 Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC) training grant to improve cardiovascular disease prediction in U.S. Latinx/Hispanic populations. Broadly, she aims to understand both social and structural factors associated with the persistence of health disparities using a resilience-focused lens. Dr. Flores is interested in novel and advanced quantitative methods to capture and model complex social environments. She identifies as Chicana and/or Latina and is enthusiastic and committed to

strengthening the academic pipeline for diverse scholars.

<https://psychology.arizona.edu/person/melissa-flores>

Primary Areas: Latina/o/x health; social capital; social network analysis; advanced latent methods; advanced longitudinal methods; developmental theory



Michael V. Stanton, PhD

California State University, East Bay

Pronouns: he/him/his

Bio: Dr. Stanton earned his PhD in Clinical Psychology with a focus in Behavioral Medicine from Duke University. He completed a clinical internship at the VA Palo Alto, and a postdoctoral fellowship in Behavioral Medicine at the VA Palo Alto & Stanford University School of Medicine. He identifies as Afro-Latino, and he is passionate about health equity. His research examines biobehavioral correlates of stress, obesity risk, and resilience, with a focus on mindfulness as an intervention.

<https://www.csueastbay.edu/news-center/experts/stanton-michael.html>

Primary Areas: obesity, stress, health disparities, mental illness, mindfulness