“Reducing disparities by bridging the gap between research and practice in Latino HIV / AIDS.”

Sponsored By:
National Institutes of Health (NIH),
National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD)
The Latino HIV/AIDS Behavioral Science Center (LHABSC) conducts theory-based research on the extent and nature of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and contributes to the advancement of knowledge in order to prevent the spread of the epidemic among Latinos in the South Florida region.

Dr. Mario De La Rosa, the Center’s director, is a current tenured Associate Professor in the College of Health and Public Affairs at FIU. Dr. De La Rosa was a Visiting Associate Research Professor at Boston University’s School of Social Work and a senior program official at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). He was also instrumental in the development of NIDA’s Hispanic Work Group in 1987 and NIDA’s Minority Fellowship Program. Dr. De La Rosa’s main area of expertise is the epidemiology of substance abuse among Latinos.
The LHABSC is comprised of four major areas: Pilot Studies Core, Training Core, Outreach and Dissemination Core, and Administration and Evaluation Core.

The **Pilot Studies Core** provides start-up funds for new, innovative projects conducted by FIU faculty members. This core closely collaborates with the FIU departments of Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology, among others.

The **Training Core** provides extensive training experience for faculty and graduate students in the submission of research grant applications and papers to scientific journals. It includes a doctoral level course and a mentorship program to help doctoral students submit grants to the National Institutes of Health.
The Community Outreach and Dissemination Core partners with HIV/AIDS service providers in the Miami-Dade Area to build long lasting relationships of mutual benefit. This core also promotes the Center’s activities and informs organizations on the best practices in HIV prevention models.

The Administration and Evaluation Core provides leadership and maintains administrative oversight of the Center. This core also provides consultation to the other cores and conducts evaluations of their effectiveness.

Dr. Jesus Felizzola is the Associate Director of the Center. Dr. Felizzola is a medical doctor and holds a Master’s Degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from FIU. He has extensive experience working in the HIV/AIDS field, both at the national and international level. He’s also served as the Evaluation Manager and Principal Investigator of an HRSA-funded grant at Care Resource, South Florida’s largest HIV/AIDS service organization.
If you are interested in our Center, our training and funding opportunities, or in any other of our cores and programs, contact Jesus Felizzola, Assistant Director, at (305) 348-5001, or by e-mail at lhabsc@fiu.edu.

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Faculty
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• Robert Malow, Ph.D.: Research Professor, AIDS Prevention Program
• Frederick L. Newman: Ph.D., Professor, Health Services Administration.
• Richard L. Beaulaurier: Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Social Work.

Staff
• Jesus Felizzola, MD: Associate Director.
• Samuel Martinez, MBA: Associate Director- Training Core
• Edme Pernia, BA: MA-candidate, Development Manager
• Harry Timothee: Ph.D.-Student, Research Assistant
• Guitelle Rahill: Ph.D.-Student, Research Assistant
• Roxana Carmenate-Pupo, B.S.: MSW-student, Research Assistant
• Hansel Castro, BA: Program Assistant

Consultant
• Ron Duran, Ph.D.

Pilot Studies
• Ramiro Martinez, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Criminal Justice.
• Mary Jo Trepka, M.D., School of Public Health.