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# Program and Abstract Book



**Hunter College Schools of the Health Professions  
Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing  
Office of Research and Grant Support**

Present

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Student-Faculty Research Conference in the Health Professions**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2009**

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# Table of Contents

Program

Keynote Speaker Bio

Abstracts

## Communication Sciences

Butler, J. *Effect of preprofessional training on skills of bilingual assessment for speech-language pathologists.* With Cascella, P.W. (Faculty Sponsor).

1

Cascella, P.W. *Tangible object symbols for individuals with severe disabilities.*

2

Eisenberg, L. *Cochlear implantation: The effects of age at implantation on speech perception skills in teenagers and adults.* With Cascella, P.W. (Faculty Sponsor).

3

Eng, N., McGarr, N., and McGloin, N. *Lexical tone perception by children with specific language impairment.*

4

Fidrych, B. *Counseling parents: Suggestions from parents of children with speech-language and developmental disabilities.* With Cascella, P.W. (Faculty Sponsor).

5

Foster, S., Ryan, J., and Yarmak, O. *Development of pragmatics and semantics from 22 months to 32 months: A case study.* With MacRoy-Higgins, M. (Faculty Sponsor).

6



Greer, K., Gordon, J., and Silverman, C.A. *Acoustic radiation and bone conduction testing.*

7

Hanlon, A. *The effect of melodic intonation therapy on childhood apraxia of speech.* With Cascella, P.W. (Faculty Sponsor).

8

Heiman, E. *Sign language and its effect on receptive vocabulary development in hearing children of low socioeconomic status.* With Cascella, P.W. (Faculty Sponsor).

9

MacRoy-Higgins, M. *Language skills in 3-year-old children with a history of expressive language delay.*

10

Rosenfeld, A. and Wertheim, A. *Analysis of typical language development through cognition and play skills.* With MacRoy-Higgins, M. (Faculty Sponsor).

11

Swan, K. and Cascella, P.W. *Speech perception of students with cochlear implants using personal FM systems in mainstream classrooms.*

12



Waltzman, D.E. *An analysis of mental verbs in story retell and narrative generation.*

13




Presenter(s) will also have an oral presentation in the East Lounge.

Weinstock, S. and Bauer, M. *The development of morphology and syntax in a typically developing child.* With MacRoy-Higgins, M. (Faculty Sponsor).

14

## Urban Public Health

 Farmer, S. *Prison: Benefit or burden? The affects the U.S. prison system has on men and their female partners.* With Ramaswamy, M. (Faculty Sponsor).

15

Fiedler, D., Romero, D., and Viladrich, A. *Disparities in Public Health: Increasing Latino and Immigrant Professionals in the Field.*

16

Fong, M.W., et al. *Effect of socioeconomic status on neurocysticercosis patients in Ecuador.* With Kelvin, E.A. (Faculty Sponsor).


17

Greene, E. and Frye, V. *Behaviors and beliefs of MSM/W that put their female partners at risk for HIV transmission.*

18

Lan, T. *Stress factors and coping mechanisms: Strategies of urban Chinese immigrant women.* With Ramaswamy, M. (Faculty Sponsor).

19

 Malonga, G., et al. *Examining possible reasons for lack of male condom use during anal sex.* With Kelvin, E.A. (Faculty Sponsor).


20

Raufman, J., Bruning, N., Meehan, M., Yeh, M. and Viladrich, A. *Using structured "treasure hunts" in supermarkets and parks to encourage healthy eating and active play among youth at high risk of obesity.*

21

Silk, J. *The role of parents and families in teen pregnancy prevention: An analysis of programs and policies.* With Romero, D. (Faculty Sponsor).


22

 Skowronek, A., Kwan, A. and Romero, D. *Do the poor lack family values? Family formation among poor and non-poor women and men.*

23

Walsh, E. *Barriers to pharmacies acting as effective public health partners.* With Alcabes, P. (Faculty Sponsor).

24

 Yung, J. et al. *Effect of living environment and working condition on neurocysticercosis in Ecuador.* With Kelvin, E.A. (Faculty Sponsor).

25

## School of Nursing

Aponte, J. *Underutilization of large survey data sets.*

26

Bernstein, K.S. and Park, S.Y. *Depression and Korean American immigrants.*

27




Presenter(s) will also have an oral presentation in the East Lounge.

Cho, S. and Bernstein, K.S. *Effects of logo-autobiography on meaning in life and mental health in wives of alcoholics.*


28

Clarke, R.K. *Drugs that kill: An examination of the hazard scores of psychiatric medications taken in overdose.* With Baumann, S. (Faculty Sponsor).

29

 Horvath, D. *Nursing students and stress: The evolution of a campus-based support group.* With Bernstein, K.S. and Sanders, L. (Faculty Sponsors).

30

 Ortiz, C.E. *Disparities in Hispanic demographic profiles in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) studies.* With Aponte, J. (Faculty Sponsor).


31

Robson, P.C. *The effect of percutaneous biliary drainage for malignant biliary obstruction on quality of life and pruritus.* With Hofmann, J. (Faculty Sponsor).

32

Saladino, J.P. and Bernstein, K.S. *Clinical assessment and management of psychiatric patients' violent and aggressive behaviors in general hospital.*

33


 Schuber, P. and Flores, E. *Preliminary findings in a multi-ethnic population comparison of views about participating in cancer treatment and prevention trials.*

34

Sharoff, L. and Griffin-Sobel, J.P. *Assessing effectiveness of an undergraduate curriculum: Simulation as a quality improvement tool.*

35

## Physical Therapy

 Ganz, S., Aharoni, N., Schechter, A., Zickria, S., and Holland, T. *Measuring functional recovery following total knee arthroplasty in the sub acute setting.*

36


## Other/Centers

Lubin, L. and Krauss, B. *Building a healthy research environment: Universal recommendations for U.S. colleges.* With Krauss, B. (Faculty Sponsor).

37

Mayambi Khula, D. *Photo essay: Providing health education to refugees at the Djabal refugee camp in eastern Chad.* With McGinniss, S. (Editor).

38

 Rumala, B.B., Moore, W.A., Hogue, P., and Gore, S. *Let's not forget the community: Take home notes for a comprehensive approach to recruitment of a diverse student body into the health professions.*

39



*Presenter(s) will also have an oral presentation in the East Lounge.*

# Program

- 1:00-5:00pm      Poster Exhibit (Lobby)
- 3:30-4:45pm      Oral Presentations (East Lounge)
- 5:10pm            Opening Remarks (Auditorium)
- Vita C. Rabinowitz, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Kenneth Olden, Ph.D., Sc.D., L.H.D.  
Acting Dean, Schools of the Health Professions  
Founding Dean, School of Public Health at Hunter College
- 5:20pm            Award Ceremony for Best Student Posters (Auditorium)
- 5:30-6:30pm      Keynote (Auditorium):
- Greening the Ghetto, and How Much It **Won't** Cost You*  
**Majora Carter**  
President, The Majora Carter Group, LLC  
[www.majoracartergroup.com](http://www.majoracartergroup.com)

## Keynote Bio: Majora Carter

Majora Carter's passionate and persistent work in the revitalization of park space and open waterfront areas in the south Bronx is something to behold. Called "one of the city's best known advocates for environmental justice" by the New York Times, Majora Carter is a visionary voice in city planning who views urban renewal through an environmental lens. The South Bronx native draws a direct connection between ecological, economic and social degradation. Hence her motto: "Green the ghetto!"



Born, raised, and continuing to live in the South Bronx, Majora believes you shouldn't have to move out of your neighborhood to live in a better one, and that this notion has environmental and economic implications that span the globe.

In 2001, after successfully shifting the Giuliani administration's plans from more municipal waste handling to positive economic development, she founded the non-profit environmental justice solutions corporation, Sustainable South Bronx (SSBx). Her first major project was writing a \$1.25M Federal Transportation planning grant for the South Bronx Greenway with 11 miles of alternative transport, local economic development, low-impact storm-water management, and recreational space. This led to the first new South Bronx water front park in over 60 years.

While needed parks are highly visible manifestations of her work, the real focus is creating intensive urban forestation, green roofing/walls, and water permeable open spaces. This robust horticultural infrastructure cleans the air, reduces urban heat island effect, efficiently manages storm water runoff, calms the soul, and creates jobs – reducing poverty.

In 2003, SSBx opened the Bronx Environmental Stewardship Training program (BEST): one of the nation's first urban green-collar job training and placement systems. After 5 years it boasts an 85% employment rate with 10% now in college. Many of these success stories were formerly incarcerated, and all of them were on some form of public assistance before completing the nationally recognized 10-week course. Her local and global environmental solutions rest on poverty alleviation through green economic development, because the local jobs they create can empower communities to resist bad environmental decisions.

Majora Carter is a 2006 MacArthur "genius" Fellow, one of Essence Magazine's 25 most influential African-Americans, one the NY Post's 50 Most Influential Women for the past 2 years, co-host of the Green on the Sundance Channel, a board member of the Wilderness Society, and host of a special national public radio series called "The Promised Land" ([thepromisedland.org](http://thepromisedland.org)). She is currently president of the green-collar economic consulting company, The Majora Carter Group, LLC.

# Abstracts of Poster Presentations

## Poster Number 1

*Effect of preprofessional training on skills of bilingual assessment for speech-language pathologists.*

Jessica Butler (Graduate, Communication Sciences)

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Paul Cascella, PhD CCC-SLP

**Issue:** This literature review investigates some of the challenges of bilingual assessment and how undergraduate and graduate coursework addressing service delivery to diverse clients may correlate to skills in this area in practicing SLPs.

**Description:** The field of speech-language pathology must respond to increasing diversity in the population by producing professionals equipped to serve culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) clients. One critical skill is the ability to appropriately assess these clients to determine the presence of a disorder. Several surveys have been carried out to investigate the confidence and skills clinicians possess for working with CLD populations. These surveys were reviewed in conjunction with articles describing the problems inherent to bilingual assessment. All articles were obtained from peer-reviewed journals.

**Results:** Three of the predominant difficulties in bilingual assessment as expressed in the surveys were: lack of appropriate assessment instruments, difficulty distinguishing disordered from normal, and the lack of competence and skills of SLPs. The surveys indicate the inadequacy of university coursework as a major cause of this insufficiency of skill.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:** Future studies should more specifically examine the direct relationship between university coursework background and bilingual assessment practices, with a large, demographically-diverse sample. This may provide guidance for university programs in developing curricula.

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## Poster Number 2

*Tangible object symbols for individuals with severe disabilities.*

Paul W. Cascella, Ph.D., CCC (Faculty, Communication Sciences)

**Background:** Tangible object symbols are easily manipulated iconic objects often used to enhance the communication of non-speaking individuals with severe developmental disabilities.

**Methods:** This paper summarizes a clinical intervention protocol (via errorless learning and a prompting hierarchy) with two participants who were introduced to tangible object symbols to request desired objects. Respectively, the participants were diagnosed with Angelman's Syndrome and Autistic Disorder and both had pre-intentional and unconventional communication.

**Results:** Results indicated that one participant demonstrated the skill three times without full physical assistance (within one month) but did not generalize the skill immediately after protocol termination. The second participant used the tangible object symbol in 65% of trials within two weeks of program implementation and showed a clear learning curve. This second participant later generalized the skill post-treatment.

**Conclusions:** Although limited, these results are positive in showing that two individuals with significant disabilities were able to pair a tangible object symbol with a request function despite the brevity of

treatment and the participant's pre-symbolic and pre-intentional communication status. It is very likely that these initial successes occurred because the symbols were introduced with a familiar instructor during daily routines and accompanied by a rewarding contingent response from the communication partner.

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### Poster Number 3

*Cochlear implantation: The effects of age at implantation on speech perception skills in teenagers and adults.*

Lauren Eisenberg (Graduate, Communication Sciences)

Faculty Sponsor: Paul Cascella, Ph.D., CCC

**Issue:** A comparison of the speech perception skills of teenagers versus adults can provide important information about the outcomes and achievements made by cochlear implant users implanted later in life.

**Description:** Technology is constantly changing and so are the populations undergoing cochlear implant surgery. This paper addresses how age of implantation affects the speech perception abilities of individuals implanted post language development. This information can help determine if even after puberty, age of implantation is still crucial.

**Results:** Previous studies indicate that children implanted prior to three years of age demonstrate greater speech perception skills than children implanted post-puberty. Individuals implanted at an older age have incurred a longer duration of deafness, affecting their ability to develop adequate speech perception skills.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:** Individuals implanted as teenagers may have missed the critical period for language development, but still have a greater chance for success than individuals implanted during adulthood.

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### Poster Number 4

*Lexical tone perception by children with specific language impairment.*

Nancy Eng (Faculty, Communication Sciences); Nancy McGarr (Faculty, St. John's University, Communication Sciences); Nora McGloin (Student, St. John's University, Communication Sciences)

**Background:** The purpose of this study was to investigate whether pitch contour changes are subject to perceptual challenges in children with SLI. Accurate discrimination is essential for tone language speakers however whether temporal processing may negatively affect lexical tone perception is unknown.

**Methods:** Forty subjects were divided into bilingual (Mandarin/English) and monolingual groups. Each group included typically developing children and ones with SLI. Ages of subjects ranged from 5-9. Diagnosis of SLI was confirmed by a bilingual SLP. Eight cognate sets of Mandarin monosyllabic words were used. Stimuli were recorded by a native Mandarin speaker.

All subjects participated in a tone discrimination task they were instructed to distinguish among four syllables that differed only by lexical tone. Accuracy and reaction times were recorded.

**Results:** Typically developing children were significantly faster and significantly more accurate than their language-impaired peers, regardless of age and gender. Bilingual children demonstrated tone discrimination problems.

**Conclusions:** Children with language impairment are disadvantaged in many ways, including the way they

are able to process temporal information. Despite the use of much longer tones, the additional information was not useful for children with SLI, even those who has had ample exposure to Mandarin. We propose that in isolation, specific aspects of a speech signal might not be salient enough for children with SLI to discriminate and so for tone language speakers, it becomes a source of impairment. However, such do not pose much of a challenge for typically developing children.

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## Poster Number 5

*Counseling parents: Suggestions from parents of children with speech-language and developmental disabilities.*

Beth-Anne Fidrych (Graduate, Communication Sciences, Speech-Language Pathology, TSSLD)

Faculty sponsor: Paul Cascella, PhD, CCC-SLP

**Issue:** Explaining to parents that their child has a developmental disability is an intimidating task for student clinicians. Although colleges provide students with counseling courses, these classes tend to focus on professional practices of the parent-clinician relationship. The details of how to go about explaining to parents that their child is developmentally disabled are rarely discussed, leaving student clinicians to learn from experience of how to counsel parents of their child's disability.

**Description:** The author contacted ten internet forums included in websites about communication and developmental disorders, and posted a request for parents to describe the factors that they wish clinicians would consider in diagnostic meetings. Collectively, forty-nine responses were recorded, with three individuals located outside of the US (2 from the UK; 1 from Australia). Analysis of these replies reveals seven dominant themes that surface, including: explanation of 'next steps', and inclusion of parents in intervention. My poster will summarize the seven themes that emerge from parents' responses.

**Lessons Learned:** The reported data serve as a professional development resource to prepare student clinicians in working with pediatric clients and their families.

**Next Steps:** Future plans include making this resource available to student clinicians as a supplement to their professional coursework.

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## Poster Number 6

*Development of pragmatics and semantics from 22 months to 32 months: A case study.*

Stephanie Foster (Graduate, Communication Sciences); John Ryan (Graduate, Communication Sciences);

Olga Yarmak (Graduate, Communication Sciences)

Faculty sponsor: Michelle MacRoy-Higgins PhD, CCC-SLP

**Background:** The purpose was to examine semantic and pragmatic development of a typically developing child at 22 months and 32 months of age. Semantics is the study of the meaning of language. Pragmatics is the rules of language used in social contexts and conversations.

**Methods:** A single male participant was recorded during two play sessions at 22 and 32 months of age. Language samples from each session were transcribed and coded according to the context of each utterance. Semantic growth was analyzed using Bloom and Lahey's, (1998) semantic content categories.

Pragmatic development was analyzed using Halliday's communicative-functional model of classification as described by Keshavarz, (2001).

**Results:** The participant demonstrated an increase in the variety of content categories used from Time1 to Time2. The participant's use of interactional pragmatic functions (utterances whose function is to initiate or sustain socialization) greatly increased from Time1 to Time2. The use of the other pragmatic categories remained relatively the same.

**Conclusions:** The participant demonstrated the use of a variety of pragmatic functions during both sessions. As expected, the use of content categories increased in diversity from Time1 to Time2. Typically developing children follow a predictable sequence of language acquisition, which can serve as a comparison to atypical language development.

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## Poster Number 7

*Acoustic radiation and bone conduction testing.*

Karen Greer (Graduate, Audiology, CUNY Graduate Center); Jessica Gordon (Graduate, Audiology, CUNY Graduate Center); Carol A. Silverman, PhD, MPH (Faculty, Communication Sciences, Hunter College; Faculty, Audiology, CUNY Graduate Center)

**Background:** Conventional audiologic testing (air conduction testing through earphones and bone conduction testing through a bone vibrator behind the pinna) is done to identify the type and magnitude of hearing loss. The purpose of this investigation was to examine the amount of acoustic radiation, or sound leakage, from the B-71 bone vibrator.

**Methods:** Participants comprised adults (40 to 65 years of age) with normal-hearing sensitivity and with sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL). Test and re-test values were obtained at 2000 and 4000 Hz. Participants comprised 15 adults with normal-hearing sensitivity and 2 adults with SNHL.

**Results:** The B-71 vibrator produced minimal positive and negative acoustic radiation values, depending on test condition in the group with normal-hearing sensitivity. The acoustic radiation values fell outside the range of the 95% confidence intervals (based on the normal group) for S1 at the 4000- and 2000-Hz retest for S1 (with SNHL) but not for S2. The results are inconsistent with previous findings possibly because of aging effects on acoustic radiation.

**Conclusions:** Further research is needed to examine acoustic radiation in persons with SNHL and the relation between aging and acoustic radiation

**Acknowledgments:** This research was supported by the Doctoral Student's Research Grant, Graduate Center, CUNY

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## Poster Number 8

*The effect of melodic intonation therapy on childhood apraxia of speech.*

Amy Hanlon (Graduate, Communication Sciences)

Faculty Sponsor: Paul Cascella, PhD, CCC

**Issue:** This literature review examines the effect of Melodic Intonation Therapy (MIT) on articulation of children with Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS).

**Description:** Children with CAS have difficulty planning and programming movement sequences necessary for speech production. These speech production difficulties are thought to be neurological in origin, but professional disagreements over the etiology, symptoms, and prevalence of CAS make it difficult to diagnosis. Because of this, there is limited evidence-based research on CAS treatment. Research suggests that a certain type of CAS treatment, Melodic Intonation Therapy (MIT), may hold promise as an effective intervention, because music and language are processed using similar cortical structures.

**Results:** After analyzing how music and language are processed cortically, results from this literature review suggest that music and language are processed using similar brain structures (BA 44, BA 45, BA 47, and the superior temporal gyrus), with music having right-hemisphere weighting and language having left-hemispheric weighting. The shared neural pathways between music and language suggest that music may aid in processing and performing language.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:** Previous research suggests that music, specifically MIT, can be used to improve the speech skills of children with CAS. Future research examining the effects of MIT on CAS should control for maturation effects and design errors in order to ensure the MIT is indeed an effective treatment.

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## Poster Number 9

*Sign language and its effect on receptive vocabulary development in hearing children of low socioeconomic status.*

Erica Heiman (Graduate Student, Communication Sciences)

Faculty Sponsor: Paul Cascella, PhD, CCC

**Issue:** This literature review investigates the effect that sign language has on the vocabulary development of hearing toddlers from low socioeconomic households.

**Description:** Research has shown that children from low socioeconomic households score poorly on receptive vocabulary tests. Studies have shown that receptive vocabulary skills often serve as a precursor to literacy development. As a result, children with low receptive vocabulary are at risk for literacy issues later in life. Studies have shown that teaching sign language to hearing infants in conjunction with verbal English can foster receptive vocabulary skills. Sign language can help improve the vocabulary skills of young hearing infants enrolled in Head Start classrooms, as these children may be vulnerable to literacy deficits that could adversely affect their academic performance, and left untreated could negatively impact their quality of life.

**Results:** Studies have proven that teaching Sign language in conjunction with verbal English allows young hearing infants to learn language through a multi sensory approach. Since communicating through gestures is easier for an infant than communicating through words, sign language allows a child to get more practice communicating with their caregivers and therefore, a child gets more practice using language and hearing language. As a result, research has shown that children who learn sign language along with verbal English have better receptive vocabulary skills than children who just learn verbal English. Studies have implied that the size of a child's vocabulary is a good indicator of how their reading comprehension performance will be later in life. Research has proven that children from low socioeconomic households have lower vocabulary skills and than children from higher socioeconomic households.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:** Research has not yet addressed the effects of teaching sign language to hearing infants and toddlers on a national level. Research is needed to determine if teaching sign language in conjunction with verbal English will make a difference in the receptive vocabulary skills of young children from low socioeconomic backgrounds

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## Poster Number 10

*Language skills in 3-year-old children with a history of expressive language delay.*

Michelle MacRoy-Higgins (Faculty, Communication Sciences)

**Background:** Toddlers who are late talkers are at risk for having lasting difficulties with language skills, which can impact their academic success. The purpose of this study was to assess the language skills of 3 year old children who demonstrated delays at 2 years of age.

**Methods:** Language skills in 3 year old children were assessed using standardized testing procedures typically used in research and clinical settings. Half of the participants demonstrated expressive language delay at 24 months (late talkers) and half of the participants demonstrated typical language development (controls). Standard scores were obtained from measures of expressive and receptive language and pre-literacy skills.

**Results:** On average, late talkers demonstrated performance in the average range on all standardized tests of language (within one standard deviation from the mean). *T-tests* revealed that late talkers' standard scores were significantly different (lower) than the control group ( $p < .05$ ).

**Conclusions:** Although children with a history of expressive language delay sometimes *catch up* and demonstrate skills within the average range of standardized tests, they do not demonstrate comparable skills to their peers. Therefore, language skills in this population should continue to be monitored, as they may have difficulty acquiring language-based academic skills such as reading and writing.

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## Poster Number 11

*Analysis of typical language development through cognition and play skills.*

Allison Rosenfeld (Graduate, Communication Sciences), Amanda Wertheim (Graduate, Communication Sciences)

Faculty Sponsor: Michelle MacRoy-Higgins

**Background:** Specific cognitive skills are necessary for meaningful communication. The purpose was to examine the cognitive development of a typically developing child through the examination of play skills and relate these observations to the development of language skills.

**Methods:** Two video-recorded play samples of a typically developing child were observed. The first recording (T1) took place when the child was 22 months old and the second (T2) took place when he was 32 months old. The researchers used Westby's Symbolic Play Scale (Westby, 1988) to determine the specific stages of the child's play skills. Stages of his play skills were used to draw conclusions about his cognition and language development.

**Results:** Throughout T1 the child demonstrated play skills within Westby's stages I and II. These skills included symbolic play through the use of familiar schemes. Throughout T2 the child demonstrated play

skills within Westby's stages III and IV. These skills included daily themes, intentional communication, and an elaboration of familiar schemes.

**Conclusions:** The child demonstrated an increase in the complexity of his play skills from T1 to T2. These skills were age-appropriate and accompanied by expected language skills. The current study helped determine the relationship between cognition and language development through analysis of play skills.

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## Poster Number 12

*Speech perception of students with cochlear implants using personal FM systems in mainstream classrooms*  
Kimberly Swan (Graduate, Communication Sciences); Paul W. Cascella (Faculty, Communication Sciences)

**Issue:** Children with cochlear implants are not thriving in mainstream classrooms due to poor acoustic environments. Use of personal frequency modulation (FM) systems may improve speech perception abilities of children with cochlear implants (CIs), thus enhancing their educational experience.

**Description:** There is little extant literature documenting enhanced speech perception abilities of children with CIs using personal FM systems. Speech perception abilities of children with CIs and children with hearing aids (HAs) are compared. The review explores various FM systems that enhance speech perception abilities in children with HAs and adults with CIs. This information is compared to the speech perception abilities of children with CIs using FM systems.

**Results:** Studies show that children with CIs have better speech perception than children with traditional HAs. Variables that adversely affect speech perception are identified. Children with HAs benefit when using personal FM systems and personal sound field systems. Since children with CIs have superior speech perception than children with HAs, these devices will offer children with CIs a greater advantage. Studies investigating adults with CIs revealed they benefit more when using personal FM systems than personal desktop systems. Children with CIs have enhanced speech perception using personal desktop systems. It is hypothesized children with CIs will receive a greater benefit using personal FM systems over personal desktop systems.

**Conclusion and Recommendation:** Future studies should investigate whether personal FM systems provide the greatest benefit to speech perception abilities in children with CIs.

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## Poster Number 13

*An analysis of mental verbs in the narratives.*

Dava E. Waltzman (Faculty, Communication Sciences)

**Background:** Mental verbs (MVs) make reference to psychological aspects of cognition (e.g., *think, remember, pretend*), emotion (e.g., *fear, happy, desire*), or perception (e.g., *see, hear*). A child's understanding of her internal mental state can be revealed through analysis of the semantic and pragmatic function of these words.

**Method:** MVs were identified in story retells of a girl (Age 5 yrs. 0 mos. – 5 years 5 months) to assess contrastive use (reality-mentality; fact–belief) as an indication of reference to the internal world of her beliefs, thoughts, and intentions and those of others.

**Results:** There were 34 MVs in the stories. 21 represented a variation of “*think*,” five “*know*,” four “*wanted*” and one token each of *pretend*, *dreaming*, *guess*, *wish*. The number of MVs was not related to narrative length. Although the longest narrative (75 utterances) contained the highest number (11); the next longest (72 utterances) had one. Contextual factors contributed to the occurrence of MVs.

**Conclusions:** Through contrastive use of MVs the narrator reveals her mental state. She describes an emotional state (being *scared*) which invites mental terms (*thinking* that something would happen). She expresses an understanding of her own thoughts and feelings and those of others by projecting them through the character’s actions and statements.

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## Poster Number 14

*The development of morphology and syntax in a typically developing child.*

Sheila Weinstock (Graduate, Communication Sciences); Melissa Bauer (Graduate, Communication Sciences)

Faculty Sponsor: Michelle MacRoy-Higgins

**Background:** The purpose of the study was to examine the morphological (grammatical forms) and syntactical (sentence and word combination) development of a typically developing child at two points in time. It was hypothesized that the child’s Mean Length of Utterance (MLU) and morphological markers would increase over time.

**Methods:** The participant was videotaped at 22 and 32 months of age during a play session. The researchers viewed the videotapes and transcribed the child’s utterances to measure aspects of language. Grammatical morphemes and MLU were noted and calculated based on Brown, 1973.

**Results:** The MLU increased from 1.3 in the first sample to 3.7 in the second sample. The number of morphological markers increased over time from two in the first sample to six in the second sample. Therefore, in the first sample, the child was demonstrating morphology and syntax characteristic of stage I in time one and in stage IV in time two.

**Conclusions:** Morphological markers and MLU increased over time, as expected, in a typically developing child. Studies of children with language impairments often include comparison groups of typically developing children, therefore, it is necessary to have a complete understanding of morphological and syntactic development in typically developing children.

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## Poster Number 15

*Prison: Benefit or burden? The effects the U.S. prison system has on men and their female partners.*

Somalia Farmer (Undergraduate, Community Health Education)

Faculty Sponsor: Megha Ramaswamy, MPH, PhD(c)

**Background/Issue:** The United States prison system has detrimental effects on currently and formally incarcerated men and their female partners. The negative effects that the prison system has on these individuals are in many ways caused by the values, customs, and traditions associated with living in a patriarchal society.

**Methods/Description:** To better understand why the U.S. prison system has such damaging effects on people, I conducted a survey with people of varying ages and backgrounds- questioning the role of men and women in our society, and asking their opinions on how prison could and would potentially upset this balance. I also reviewed literature explaining some of these effects.

**Results:** Across various age groups, with the exception of just a few outliers, both men and women felt that once the male roles of “provider” and “protector” are removed from a household, several emotional, psychological, and financial complications arise.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:** Prison disrupts the familial stability and social well-being of incarcerated men and their families because we live in a patriarchal society, where men are often considered the “head of a household.” Although changing American society into a non-patriarchal one would have the biggest effect on how the U.S. prison system affects people, a quicker and easier solution to this problem would be to reform the prison system to allow incarcerated men to be able to provide for, and protect their families.

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## Poster Number 16

*Disparities in public health: Increasing Latino and immigrant professionals in the field.*

Dan Fiedler (Graduate, Urban Public Health); Diana Romero, PhD, MA (Faculty, Urban Public Health); Anahi Viladrich, PhD (Faculty, Urban Public Health)

**Background:** The scarcity of Latino health professionals may contribute to health disparities in the US. This project aims to examine the barriers and incentives faced by Latino immigrants and their children in pursuit of higher education in the health professions. Knowing about Latino immigrants’ perceived barriers to academic achievement is crucial for the design of recruitment strategies so that disadvantaged minorities can achieve academic success, pursue health professions, and ultimately experience less poverty.

**Methods:** We use a mixed-methods approach combining survey and focus group research strategies conducted among a representative sample of Hunter College students of Latino immigrant origin.

**Results:** A comprehensive literature review consisting of a selective keyword search of social science, health, and governmental databases is underway. We created an abstract data form to identify and collect key variables (i.e., citation information, source description, research methodology, findings, measurement tools, etc.). Next steps include identifying salient findings and trends from aggregate data to inform development of the quantitative survey and focus group interview guide.

**Conclusions:** This project will contribute to development of better measurement tools that integrate both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to understand key barriers to Latino and immigrant participation in health professions and inform policy proposals.

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## Poster Number 17

*Effect of socioeconomic status on neurocysticercosis patients in Ecuador.*

Man Wah Fong (Graduate, Urban Public Health), Janette Yung (Graduate, Urban Public Health), Elizabeth Kelvin (Faculty, Urban Public Health), Arturo Carpio (U of Cuenca, Ecuador), Emilia Bagiella (Columbia U), Denise Leslie (MRI Diagnostics of Westchester), Pietro Leon (Instituto de Diagnóstico por Imágenes),

Howard Andrews (Columbia U), W.Allen Hauser (Columbia U), and the Ecuadorian Neurocysticercosis Group (Ecuador)

**Objective:** We examined the association between the number of Neurocysticercosis (NC) cysts with indicators of socioeconomic status.

**Background:** NC is an infection of the CNS with the larval stage of *Taenia solium* (*T. solium*). NC is transmitted through the fecal-oral route, and therefore related to poverty and poor sanitary conditions. However, NC has been associated with the employment of housekeepers from endemic countries, and thus can also affect the affluent.

**Methods:** We report results on 172 symptomatic, CT/MRI confirmed NC patients in Ecuador. We looked at the association between the number of NC cysts in the brain (1 versus >1), likely an indicator of level of exposure to *T. solium* eggs, and socioeconomic status, specifically low education (less than secondary school), and low average monthly income (<\$70 per month). We also looked at eating out and having a housekeeper cook in the home as possible risk factors.

**Results:** The odds of having more than 1 NC cyst did not differ significantly by education, income, eating outside the home, nor having a housekeeper cook in the home.

**Conclusions:** In a country like Ecuador where NC is endemic, exposure to *T. solium* eggs, may be similar among the affluent and poor alike.

**Acknowledgements:** This study was supported by NINDS grant #R01-NS39403; Glaxo/SKB and Acromax Co. supplied active drug and placebo.

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## Poster Number 18

*Behaviors and beliefs of MSM/W that put their female partners at risk for HIV transmission.*

Emily Greene (Graduate, Urban Public Health); Victoria Frye, DPH (Faculty, Urban Public Health)

**Background:** Women are the fastest growing group of new HIV cases in the United States. Many of these cases represent heterosexual transmission but the role of MSM/W in the transmission chain is not clearly understood. This analysis compares the beliefs and behaviors of a sample of MSM/W who engaged in unprotected vaginal intercourse (UVI) with women, with those who did not report such high risk behavior.

**Methods:** This analysis was conducted using data generated from a multi-city intervention study for MSM who use drugs and have unprotected sex. Among a small sample of MSM/W (N=154); bivariate and multivariate statistical analyses were performed.

**Results:** Two-thirds of the MSM/W reported recent UVI. Preliminary analyses showed MSM/W who were unemployed (OR=2.63; CI 1.05,6.67) and who had weaker feelings of a gay-racial identity (OR=1.49; CI 1.11, 2.00) were more likely to report UVI; MSM/W who were less worried about HIV due to new treatment options (OR=2.18; CI 1.38, 3.43) were significantly more likely to report UVI. UVI was also associated with homelessness, drug use, self-homophobia, depression, and anxiety.

**Conclusions:** MSM/W may constitute an important bridge to the heterosexual population. MSM/W who engage in multiple risky behaviors may need different interventions than MSW or MSM to protect themselves and their partners.

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## Poster Number 19

*Stress factors and coping mechanisms: Strategies of urban Chinese immigrant women.*

Tammy Lan (Undergraduate, Community Health Education)

Faculty Sponsor: Megha Ramaswamy, MPH, PhD(c)

**Issue:** Urban Chinese immigrant women face cultural, linguistic, and economic barriers due to specific aspects of traditional Chinese culture: Confucianism, patriarchy, and patriliney. Yet for economic reasons, they are often obliged to become second income providers, which potentially conflicts with their traditional roles of housewife, parent, wife, and daughter-in-law.

**Description:** There were four hypotheses to be tested through 17-item questionnaires of convective samplings: to discover the daily stress factors reported by urban Chinese immigrant women. The second goal is to relate these factors to women's demographic information. The third goal is to document their coping strategies for overcoming stressors. Fourth is to correlate these findings with other literature.

**Results:** Results found that these women feeling stress due to the responsibilities of being dedicated to their marriage (84%), speaking Chinese at home (84%), and being housewife while having flexible job (52%) but receiving less income than their husbands (85%). English proficiency was the utmost stress factors (53%), and the best coping strategy was social networking within families, friends, and relatives (72%).

**Conclusions:** All findings emphasized those found in literature reviews on stress factors, the relationship between stress factors to women's demographic information, and coping strategies. Implications such as offering English classes, family planning, or job training for new or old immigrants could possibly ease some of their stress.

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## Poster Number 20

*Examining possible reasons for lack of male condom use during anal sex.*

Grace Malonga (Graduate, Urban Public Health), Elizabeth A. Kelvin (Faculty, Urban Public Health), Joanne E. Mantell (Faculty, Columbia U), Norman Candelario (Gay Men's Health Crisis), Bill Stackhouse (Gay Men's Health Crisis), Theresa Exner (Faculty, Columbia U), Susie Hoffman (Faculty, Columbia U), Zena Stein (Faculty, Columbia U)

**Background:** Unprotected anal intercourse is an important mode of HIV infection. However, unprotected anal sex remains common. Reasons for lack of condom use need to be identified.

**Methods:** We conducted a cross-sectional survey among 100 male clients at the David Geffen Center for HIV Prevention and Health Education at GMHC in New York City. We calculated odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals to examine the association between male condom use in the past 6-months (never versus at least sometimes) with (1) views about the condom's HIV/STI prevention efficacy, (2) problems experienced with condoms (e.g. breakage), and (3) rating of condom's impact on pleasure of anal sex.

**Results:** Those who rated male condoms as only poor-fair in their HIV/STI protection had significantly lower odds of recent condom use compared to those who rated the protection to be good-excellent (OR=0.25, 95% CI: 0.08-0.83). Recent condom use was not associated with experiencing problems with condoms, nor with ratings of its impact on pleasure. Having experienced problems with condoms was unrelated to views about the HIV/STI protection condoms provide.

**Conclusions:** Lack of condom use could be associated with incorrect efficacy beliefs, and education about condom efficacy to prevent disease might increase condom use.

**Acknowledgements:** This research was supported by the HIV Center Pilot Study Program (P30-MH43520). Grace Malonga's time was supported by the New York City Alliance for Minority Participation funded by NSF.

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## Poster Number 21

*Using structured "treasure hunts" in supermarkets and parks to encourage healthy eating and active play among youth at high risk of obesity.*

Raufman, Jill, (Graduate, Urban Public Health), Bruning, Nancy, (Research Associate, IAHI, Urban Public Health), Meehan, Maggie, (Graduate, Urban Public Health) Yeh, Ming, (Faculty, Urban Public Health), Viladrich, Anahi, (Faculty, Urban Public Health).

**Issue:** Obesity rates are increasing among low-income minority youth, while rates of exercising and eating healthfully have decreased. Hispanic children are 3.4 and 2 times more likely to be overweight than whites and Blacks, respectively. Educating children and their families about the role of healthful foods and physical activity in reducing obesity is essential.

**Project:** "SLEUTH" (Searchers Learn about Eating & Exercise Using Treasure Hunts) is an original program that connects healthy eating, physical activity, and fun using neighborhood supermarkets and parks as settings. Using "maps" of the store and the parks, children and their caregivers recruited in supermarket and parks will be invited to search ("hunt) for healthy foods and park features. Monetary and nonmonetary prizes (such as food coupons) will be given as incentives. This event will be repeated on a regular basis to reinforce participant retention.

**Lessons Learned:** Consumption of healthy foods and time spent in physical activity can be increased via a Treasure Hunt model. SLEUTH teaches that looking for healthy foods has value as "treasure." Children and parents discover that parks are safe places for the family to engage in active play.

**Next Steps:** Findings will help design health promotion programs in underserved low-income neighborhoods.

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## Poster Number 22

*The role of parents and families in teen pregnancy prevention: An analysis of programs and policies.*

Jessica Silk (Graduate, Urban Public Health)

Faculty Sponsor: Diana Romero (Urban Public Health)

**Issue:** Teen pregnancy prevention (TPP) is a public health priority. Parents/families are actively interested in protecting the sexual health of youth and play an important role in adolescent risk, but there has been limited evidence for how public health interventions can address their role. This project examines current policy and programs around parent/family involvement (PI) in TPP.

**Description:** A systematic review of PI in TPP was conducted using strict criteria for inclusion (peer-reviewed, RCT/quasi-experimental design, study population of 100+, urban setting, evidence for impact on sexual behaviors). Additionally, the policy environment was reviewed regarding sex education and other

related issues. Research is synthesized to make recommendations for programs, policy, and future research.

**Results:** Parents are important in TPP, but evidence for PI programs is not strong. There is evidence supporting the effectiveness of multi-component interventions that include a PI component and there is weak to moderate evidence for the effectiveness of stand-alone PI interventions.

**Conclusions and recommendations:**

Although the evidence for PI strategies is not strong, there is still promise. Due to the complicated, overlapping risk factors for teen pregnancy, no single approach is likely to be effective, but parents remain an important influence. Programs and policies should incorporate lessons learned from this review.

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## Poster Number 23

*Do the poor lack family values? Family formation among poor and non-poor women and men.*

Andrea Skowronek (Graduate, Urban Public Health); Amy Kwan (Graduate/DPH, Graduate Center, CUNY); Diana Romero (Faculty, Hunter College and Graduate Center, CUNY)

**Background:** Popular and political commentary has “problematized” childbearing among cohabitating and single women, especially among the poor and racial/ethnic minorities, calling into question their “family values.” This has resulted in social and health-related policies intended to change family-formation behaviors among the poor. The focus of this study is to further understand attitudinal and behavioral differences among poor and non-poor women and men regarding family-formation.

**Methods:** Microdata from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth (n=12,571) were analyzed to explore factors influencing fertility and family-formation attitudes and behaviors by gender and income.

**Results:** Analysis indicated that poor respondents were significantly more likely to express what might be considered “conservative family values,” placing higher value on marriage, a male breadwinner, and pregnancy/child-bearing, and were less supportive of non-marital cohabitation and childbearing.

**Conclusions:** Attitudes concerning gender-roles, cohabitation, marriage, and parenting differ among poor and non-poor individuals, but in a direction contrary to popular notions. There is also an association between these attitudes and related behaviors, although a consistent direction of the association is lacking. Follow-up qualitative data collection may better explain these findings and address the disconnect between policies intended to influence child-bearing and other aspects of family formation among the poor.

**Acknowledgements:** This research was supported by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (K01-HD055263-01 A1).

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## Poster Number 24

*Barriers to pharmacies acting as effective public health partners.*

Emily Walsh (Graduate, Urban Public Health)

Faculty Sponsor: Phillip Alcabes

**Background:** Pharmacists are trusted, accessible health professionals and yet their expertise is underutilized. While studies have shown that pharmacist-led interventions lead to improved health

outcomes and lowered costs, pharmacists face significant obstacles to expanding their role. This study identifies barriers to expanding pharmaceutical care and makes recommendations for how these barriers can be overcome.

**Methods:** A literature review was conducted as a first step to identifying barriers. Key informant interviews are currently being conducted to assess how identified barriers affect New York City pharmacists and to learn how to reduce or eliminate these obstacles. Results of interviews will be compared to the literature and recommendations for change will be made.

**Results:** Results of the literature review show that economic, attitudinal and resource-related barriers are most likely to prevent pharmacists from providing expanded services. Within the literature by far the greatest barrier is lack of reimbursement. This is expected to align with the ongoing key informant interviews.

**Conclusions:** It is expected that many recommendations for change will be structural and policy changes. However this study will also yield a list of recommendations for public health agencies wishing to work with pharmacies. This study is exploratory; further research is needed.

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## Poster Number 25

*Effect of living environment and working condition on neurocysticercosis in Ecuador.*

Janette Yung (Graduate, Urban Public Health), Man Wah Fong (Graduate, Urban Public Health), Elizabeth Kelvin (Faculty, Urban Public Health), Arturo Carpio (U of Cuenca, Ecuador), Emilia Bagiella (Columbia U), Denise Leslie (MRI Diagnostics of Westchester), Pietro Leon (Instituto de Diagnóstico por Imágenes), Howard Andrews (Columbia U), W. Allen Hauser (Columbia U), and the Ecuadorian Neurocysticercosis Group (Ecuador)

**Objective:** We examined the association between the number of Neurocysticercosis (NC) cysts and living and working conditions in Ecuador.

**Background:** NC is an infection of the central nervous system with *Taenia solium* (*T. solium*). NC is transmitted through the fecal-oral route and is associated with poor sanitary conditions.

**Methods:** We report on 172 symptomatic NC patients in Ecuador. We looked at the association between the number of NC cysts in the brain (1 versus >1), as number of cysts may be an indicator of level of exposure to *T. solium*, with living conditions, specifically type of house (adobe/wood versus brick/cement), type of community type (rural versus urban), paved road near house, having a modern bathroom in the house, and having running water in the house. We also looked at blue collar employment as a risk factor, as manual jobs may increase exposure.

**Results:** Living on an unpaved road and working in a blue collar job were associated with a significantly higher odds of having >1 cyst. No other indicators of living conditions were associated with the number of cysts.

**Conclusion:** Contact with dirt either through travel on unpaved roads or manual labor job may increase exposure to *T. solium* eggs.

**Acknowledgements:** This study was supported by NINDS grant #R01-NS39403; Glaxo/SKB and Acromax Co. supplied active drug and placebo.

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## Poster Number 26

*Underutilization of large survey data sets.*

Judith Aponte (Faculty, School of Nursing)

**Issue:** Nurse researchers underutilize the large repositories of data available for secondary data analysis. In order to determine whether nurse researchers have been conducting secondary data analyses a literature search was conducted from January 2003 to September 2008.

**Methodology:** Three different PUBMED searches of articles were conducted. The first search used the same key words *secondary data analysis* and *nursing*, identifying 99 studies; 83 indicated that a “secondary analysis” was conducted, 52 of which were published in nursing journals. The second search, using the keywords *large survey data sets* and *nursing*, identified 12 articles; none were published in nursing journals. The third search, using the keywords *large data sets* and *nursing*, identified 9 articles, which was not published in a nursing journal and was one of the articles identified in the second search.

**Results:** From 2003 to 2008, 99 nursing studies used secondary analyses; 19 were of large data sets and 7 of those 19 were published in nursing journals. Thus, there was a slight increase in the use of large data sets in nursing research but a decrease in the number of studies using large data sets published in nursing journals.

**Conclusion:** Whether the numbers increased or decreased, they indicate that few nurse researchers are conducting secondary analyses of large data survey sets.

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## Poster Number 27

*Depression and Korean American immigrants.*

Kunsook Song Bernstein (Faculty, School of Nursing); So-Youn Park (Doctorate Student, NYU School of Social Work)

**Issue:** Depression is a major mental health problem across all ethnic groups in the United States and is prevalent among immigrants, who have to deal with increased stress caused by migration.

**Description:** Koreans are relatively new immigrants and one of the fastest growing immigrant groups in the United States. Research has shown that immigration experiences are associated with depression and that acculturation and social support are moderating factors for depression.

**Results:** Korean culture is informed by Confucianism and its emphasis on family integrity, group conformity, and traditional gender roles. These cultural values have influenced how Korean immigrants conceptualize depression, express depressive symptoms, and demonstrate help-seeking behavior.

**Conclusions and recommendations:** An understanding of the Korean-American immigrant experience and culturally specific patterns of manifesting and expressing depression would be helpful in providing culturally appropriate mental-health services.

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## Poster Number 28

*Effects of logo-autobiography on meaning in life and mental health in wives of alcoholics.*

Sunhee Cho (Research Fellow, School of Nursing); Kunsook S. Bernstein (Faculty, School of Nursing)

**Background:** This study aimed to identify the effectiveness of the logo-autobiography in improving meaning in life and mental health in wives of alcoholics.

**Methods:** The program was developed in four steps: literature review, pilot program development, pilot study and detailed program structuring. The pilot program was developed by combining a modified guided autobiography program with logotherapy. A non-randomized controlled trial was conducted with a pre- and post-test design. The instruments were the Purpose in Life test and the Symptom Checklist-90-Revision to measure the meaning in life and mental health. Data were collected from 19 subjects in the experimental group and 21 subjects in the control group who were alcoholics' wives in South Korea from November 2006 to March 2007.

**Results:** The score for meaning in life was significantly higher in the experimental group than in the control group ( $p=0.047$ ). Also, the scores for somatization ( $p=0.001$ ), interpersonal sensitivity ( $p=0.008$ ), depression ( $p=0.003$ ), hostility ( $p=0.002$ ) and global severity index ( $p=0.001$ ) were significantly lower in the experimental group than in the control group.

**Conclusion:** This study indicated that the logo-autobiography program enhanced both meaning in life and mental health in alcoholics' wives, which suggests that the program would be very beneficial to this population.

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## Poster Number 29

*Drugs that kill: An examination of the hazard scores of psychiatric medications taken in overdose.*

Raimonda K. Clarke (Graduate Nursing Student ANP/GNP)

Faculty Sponsor: Steven L. Baumann, PhD, GNP, PMHNP

**Significance:** The toxicity of commonly prescribed psychiatric medications taken in overdose varies considerably. With some agents, death has occurred within the established 'therapeutic' range, while with other agents survival is common with massive overdoses. The calculated hazard score for each of the most common psychiatric medications will provide prescribers additional information on the toxicity of these medications, as they are used and misused in the community. Such information is vital to the clinical understanding of the safety and risks of commonly prescribed psychiatric agents.

**Purpose/Aim:** This study seeks to explore the toxicity/lethality of the most commonly used psychiatric medications in New York City, particularly those that were used in overdose, suicide attempts, and self-poisonings from 2000-2005.

**Methods:** Information will be gleaned from the NYC Poison Control Toxic Exposure Surveillance System (TESS) regarding type of exposure and classification of effects, and a hazard score will be calculated.

**Results/Interpretation:** This study is currently in progress. Permission to assess the data and agency IRB approval has been obtained.

**Conclusions/ Implications:** The clinical implications of the safety of commonly used psychiatric medications when taken in overdose will be explored for health care professionals, especially those who prescribe these agents. Implications for further study will also be discussed.

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## Poster Number 30

*Nursing students and stress: The evolution of a campus-based support group.*

David Horvath, Ph.D, RN (Psychiatric-Mental Health Advanced Practice Certificate, NP Student, School of Nursing)

Faculty Sponsor: Kunsook Bernstein and Lorraine Sanders

**Issue:** Nursing students appear to experience stress at levels above and beyond their non-nursing peers. In order to address this concern, a Psychiatric Mental–Health Faculty/Student–facilitated support group was established in Fall, 2008 to meet the needs of students experiencing levels of stress that were negatively impacting upon their academic life. However, despite the apparent need for the group, limited student participation curtailed its progress, prompting a “revisitation” of the original group purpose and methodology.

**Description:** Although initial anecdotal data suggested the availability of a support group was indicated, a review of the literature on stress among nursing students was done as well as a re-assessment of the methodological approaches to the group.

**Lessons learned:** Recent data confirmed that nursing students experience high levels of stress that can be modulated by support group experiences. Paradoxically, many of the factors related to student stress inhibit participation in self-help activities. Novel approaches to recruiting group members are available to overcome specific barriers.

**Next steps:** A two-phase approach is being initiated in order to re-vitalize the Nursing Student Support Group including:

- 1) Innovative promotional and student recruiting strategies; and
- 2) A feasibility study for the development of an elective, experiential course in self-help group dynamics.

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## Poster Number 31

*Disparities in Hispanic demographic profiles in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) studies.*

Caroline E. Ortiz (Graduate Student, MSN/MPH)

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Judith Aponte

**Issue:** A literature review was conducted of CAM studies among Hispanics, highlighting the implications of homogenization.

**Description:** Key search terms included “Hispanic or Latino and Complementary and Alternative Medicine”. MEDLINE, PubMed, and the Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) databases were explored. Publications were peer-reviewed journal articles from January 2003 to December 2008. Forty-nine (49) articles were identified.

**Results:** Hispanics were studied as a homogenous aggregate (3:1). Nine (9) studies stratified Hispanics by ancestry. Three (3) investigations inadvertently profiled Hispanic subgroups by selecting subjects living in geographic areas with high immigrant concentrations. Twenty (20) studies examined Hispanics as defined by national health information surveys which did not explore ancestry. Twelve (12) articles concluded Hispanics utilized CAM to a lesser extent than non-Hispanic Whites. Seven (7) determined CAM use to be equal to or greater than their non-Hispanic counterparts. Eleven (11) investigations were almost equally split between race/ethnicity predicting CAM use and having no significant influence.

**Conclusions & Recommendations:** A profile of CAM utilization among Hispanics is inconclusive. Examining beyond “Hispanic” generalizations is critical to a sophisticated understanding of health-seeking behaviors among this heterogeneous population.

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## Poster Number 32

*The effect of percutaneous biliary drainage for malignant biliary obstruction on quality of life and pruritus.*

P. C. Robson, BSN, BA, RN (Adult Nurse Practitioner Graduate Student, School of Nursing)

Faculty Sponsor: Joanna Hofmann, Ph.D.

**Background:** Percutaneous biliary drainage (PBD) performed on patients with malignant biliary obstruction (MBO) is a palliative procedure. Currently, the evidence offers little insight on how PBD affects quality of life (QoL) or improves symptoms, such a pruritus, after PBD. The aim of this study was to evaluate changes in QoL and pruritus after PBD.

**Methods:** Consented, eligible patients participated in a prospective study evaluating QoL and pruritus after PBD using the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy- Hepatobiliary instrument (FACT-Hep) and the visual analog scale for pruritus (VASP). Instruments were completed at baseline, one week, and four weeks following PBD.

**Results:** One hundred nine (60 male / 49 female) patients enrolled. The mean FACT-hep scores declined significantly ( $P<0.005$ ) over time (101.2, 95.3, 94.7 at baseline, 1 week, 4 weeks, respectively). The VASP scales scores showed significant improvement at 1 week with continued improvement at 4 weeks ( $P<0.01$ ). Mortality was 9% ( $N=10$ ) at 4 weeks and 28% ( $N=30$ ) at 8 weeks post PBD with a median survival of 4.8 months.

**Conclusions:** PBD for may improve pruritus but not QoL in patients with MBO and advanced disease. There is a high early mortality in the population.

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## Poster Number 33

*Clinical assessment and management of psychiatric patients’ violent and aggressive behaviors in general hospital.*

Joseph P. Saladino (Faculty, School of Nursing); Kunsook Song Bernstein (Faculty, School of Nursing)

**Issue:** Violence in health care settings continues to be a serious concern as evidenced by the efforts of such organizations as the New York State Nurses Association to encourage the passage of legislation to increase the criminal penalties for assaulting nurses while on duty (nysna.org).

**Description:** It is important for medical-surgical nurses to be competent in assessing and evaluating violent and aggressive psychiatric patients admitted for other than psychiatric problems. The clinical manifestation of psychiatric patients’ violent and aggressive behaviors in relation to their psychiatric disorders, their management by using the framework of nursing process, and practice implications regarding intervention and treatment are described in this journal article.

**Results:** This article provides an overview of psychiatric disorders that are correlated with an increased risk for violence, and treatment suggestions for minimizing the risk for violence.

**Conclusions and recommendations:** Future research may focus on examining the efficacy of these clinical approaches.

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## Poster Number 34

*Preliminary findings in a multi-ethnic population comparison of views about participating in cancer treatment and prevention trials.*

Peggy Schuber, PhD, RN (Faculty, School of Nursing); Estevan Flores, PhD (Chief (former), Population Science & Cancer Control, Nevada Cancer Institute)

**Background:** This Nevada-based study design had a two-part methodology that addressed the Nevada Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan to increase the number and diversity of clinical trial participants in Nevada.

**Methods:** We assessed Nevadans' current views toward cancer and cancer trials and the influences that affect decisions about seeking cancer treatment or cancer prevention as part of a cancer trial through both: 1) focus group research, and 2) a population-based Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview survey. We determined multi-ethnic views by holding community-based focus groups (FGs) with four ethnic groups: African-, Hispanic-, Native Americans, and non-Hispanic Whites.

**Results:** We found in our FGs ethnic/racial variation about trust in the research process and beliefs that trials are of use to only those who have no alternatives. We found both similar and unique beliefs about cancer and the cancer trials process both within and between each FG. Findings informed our randomized survey for substantive questions asked. The survey data analyzed showed differences in mean scale scores among ethnic groups.

**Conclusions:** Programs should address the cultural beliefs of unique ethnic groups so that knowledge of cancer and the cancer trials process is accepted and more fully understood.

**Acknowledgements:** Grateful appreciation is extended to the funding by Nevada Collaborative Grant Program of the Nevada Cancer Institute for the completion of this project.

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## Poster Number 35

*Assessing effectiveness of an undergraduate curriculum: Simulation as a quality improvement tool.*

Leighsa Sharoff, EdD, RN, NPP, AHN-BC (Faculty, School of Nursing); Joyce P. Griffin-Sobel, PhD, RN, AOCN, CNE, ANEF (Faculty, School of Nursing)

**Issue:** Nursing educators are challenged to ensure the undergraduate curriculum achieves the performance outcomes that graduate nurses are expected to possess, and to identify gaps in learning. With the explosion of knowledge in science, educational innovation and technology, educators grapple with avoiding content overload and additive curricula, while ensuring learner-centric methods of instruction.

**Description:** Models of quality improvement in education evaluated the need to continually address basic skills, such as hand washing; need to check patient ID bands; learn parameters for administration of PRN medications as well as how to provide patient report to MD and/or Charge Nurse. Simulation was integrated into the curriculum as a method to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate

achievement of competencies, and to demonstrate information literacy and competence in using technology.

**Lessons Learned:** Students displayed gaps in learning of some knowledge and skills. Methods of identification of learning gaps are essential for student competency and continual growth as a professional health care provider. Identification requires the faculty to observe the simulation (actual or video experience); discuss how simulation enhanced and/or hindered student knowledge and performance ability and discuss outcomes of simulation experience with faculty themselves.

**Next Steps:** Strategies for effective remediation include continuation of curriculum analysis, identification of gaps and monitoring of the curriculum so that it stays on its projected educational track. The use of simulation as a quality improvement tool can be used across all specialty areas, and strategies for generalization of this model are described.

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## Poster Number 36

*Measuring functional recovery following total knee arthroplasty in the sub acute setting.*

Sandy Ganz PT DSc GCS (Amsterdam Nursing Home); Nitza Aharoni SPT, Allison Schechter SPT, Sameera Zickria SPT (Physical Therapy); Tom Holland PT PhD (Faculty, Physical Therapy)

**Purpose:** To describe the functional recovery following total knee arthroplasty (TKA) in the sub acute setting.

**Subjects:** Twenty eight subjects (24 females, 4 males) with average age of 71.3. Subjects were ambulatory, community dwelling elderly, admitted to a nursing home for short term rehabilitation following TKA.

**Method:** All subjects received daily physical therapy consisting of transfer and gait training, strengthening, balance, range of motion and aerobic conditioning exercises. The Six Minute Walk Test (6MWT) and Timed Up and Go (TUG) scores were obtained on admission and biweekly thereafter until discharge. Inter-rater reliability for both tests were established.

**Data analysis:** Analysis was performed using KWIK STAT statistical software package. Descriptive statistics were used for baseline characteristics. Repeated measures analyses were used to compare admission and discharge 6 MWT and TUG scores.

**Results:** Mean hospital stay was 5.7 days. Mean sub acute length of stay (LOS) was 17 days. There were 28 subjects (24 females, 4 males) ranging in age from 54-86, mean age was 71.3 years. All subjects had a diagnosis of osteoarthritis and underwent elective total knee arthroplasty. Both the 6MWT and TUG scores were compared on admission and discharge. There was significant difference ( $p < .001$ ) in both the TUG and 6 MWT when comparing admission to discharge scores.

**Conclusions:** There was significant improvement on 6MWT and TUG scores from admission to discharge.

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## Poster Number 37

*Building a healthy research environment: Universal recommendation for U.S. colleges.*

Lakeisha Lubin (Intern, ORGS); Beatrice J. Krauss (Faculty, Urban Public Health)

**Issue:** College faculty enliven classrooms by involving students in the process of discovery and take pride in their contributions to their fields and communities. However, teaching loads and lack of resources (e.g.,

colleagues' input, equipment, data management and analysis) may interfere with applying for, implementing, analyzing and disseminating research and its results.

**Description:** The National Institutes of Health describe recommended components of a research supportive college environment. They are, 1) an administration/coordination unit to obtain resources and maintain excellence, 2) a research design, data management and analysis unit to apply highest standards in methods and content, 3) a field support unit to promote context-sensitive methods and ensure performance goals are met

( e.g., recruitment) , 4) an ethical review and oversight unit to identify and address human subjects concerns (e.g., emergency protocols) 5) an information exchange and dissemination unit to promote appropriate community, professional, and policy use of results and 6) a training and professional development unit to advance continuous quality improvement of faculty work.

**Lessons Learned:** Colleges implementing these recommendations receive a \$4 to \$8 return on every \$1 invested in research infrastructure. They also increase faculty and student retention as well as recognition of scholarly work.

**Next Steps:** The Office of Research and Grant support has been using these recommendations to create an effective research infrastructure at the Brookdale Health Science Campus at Hunter.

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## Poster Number 38

*Photo essay: Providing health education to refugees at the Djabal refugee camp in eastern Chad.*

Dieudonne Mayambi Khula (Intern, ORGS)

Edited by Shawn McGinniss (Administrative & Research Coordinator, ORGS, CCUH)

**Issue:** An estimated 200,000 civilians, many of them women and children, crossed into Chad in 2003 to flee escalating violence between the Sudanese government and a rebel militia "Janjawide." Eastern Chad is a region with very limited resources; water, firewood, and food shortages are often the cause of clashes between the local population and displaced refugees.

**Description:** Djabal refugee camp is home to 15,000 refugees, suffering from overcrowding and no infrastructure. No access to clean water, a shortage of properly built latrines, and no refuse disposal facilities resulted in poor hygiene practices, a rise in preventable illnesses, no valuation of community property, and no sense of ownership. The photos on display were taken during a visit to engage refugees in health education and community development.

**Lessons Learned:** Refugees became more engaged as a community, displayed an increased interest and involvement in public health-related issues and health education. Humanitarian aid volunteers provided access clean water, helped refugees dig cabbage pits, design and build latrines with community input, and provide cleaning materials to help mitigate sanitation issues and reduce the incidence of many preventable illnesses in Djabal refugee camp.

**Conclusions:** After one year of work in Djabal camp, we empowered community with public health knowledge, created a sense of ownership, and public health program sustainability. The outcome was mitigation of epidemics outbreak. Refugees living in Djabal are people who will one day return to their home country. They will need to carry with them the public health knowledge acquired during their stay in camp. As you will see it on photographs, school boys and girls, teachers, refugee leaders and the

community at all were trained to be trainers and educate their peer to develop ownership, leadership. Djabal today is a safe place.

## Poster Number 39

*Let's not forget the community: Take home notes for a comprehensive approach to recruitment of a diverse student body into the health professions.*

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Public health and the environment have been a timely emerging theme for the national public health agenda as an important tool to decrease the health disparities gap. Part of this agenda includes increasing diversity in health professions and public health workforce members who will provide services to the underserved and disadvantaged community. The benefits of a racially diverse educational environment through utilizing traditional recruitment methods has received abundant support from the literature, however, the role of formal collaboration with the community as a tool in increasing this diversity in academic centers has received very little attention. Community involvement becomes increasingly important for many public institutions that are serving and conducting various research initiatives in the communities in which they are located. This paper will discuss the use of a formal community based participatory approach as part of a comprehensive diversity recruitment plan at a school of health sciences within a public institution in the Midwest. This paper will also outline evidenced based suggestions for schools of public health. This strategy is under consideration for implementation at an institution located in a major metropolitan area on the east coast.

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## About the Office of Research and Grant Support

ORGS provides development and support services to faculty members wishing to apply for research funding, whether it be from federal, state, city, or private sources. A variety of resources are available, including one-on-one consultation, mock reviews of research proposals, and technological support from ORGS and the Health Professions Education Center (HPEC).

Services offered include:

- Grant writing and budgeting assistance, including mock reviews
- Statistical consultation
- Concept paper development and review
- Research design and measurement consultation
- Program planning and evaluation consultation
- Assistance with finding appropriate funding mechanisms, including enrollment in alert systems for funding opportunities
- Preparing applications for electronic submission
- IRB pre-review
- Consultation on implementation and quality control
- Assistance with project management and operations, including field site operations
- Progress report preparation assistance
- Publication and dissemination assistance
- Career assessment and planning
- Financial support for grant-related activities through a set of award mechanisms
- Personal abstract alert system of recent findings in your area(s) of interest
- A Blackboard community featuring program planning tips, career development and mentoring materials, NIH program information, budgeting advice and forms, concept paper resources, tips on writing aims, background/needs, and human subjects sections of grants, IRB information, grant review materials, and much more!

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