

Elsa Pinto López, PhD, RD, LND

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EDUCATION

Florida International University, Miami, FL. ■ 2008

Ph.D. in Dietetics and Nutrition

Dissertation topic: Dietary Patterns and Substance Use among Latino Women

University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, PR ■ 2002

M.S. in Environmental Health

Thesis Title: “Hygienic quality of street-vended ice cream”

University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, PR ■ 1998

B.S. in Dietetics and Nutrition

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Nutritional Epidemiology ■ Johns Hopkins University ■ 2005

Certificate of Training in Adult Weight Management ■ 2001

LANGUAGES

Spanish – native language; **English** – read, write and speak fluently.

COMPUTER SKILLS

SPSS, Atlas Ti, Microsoft applications (Word, Excel, Publisher, Power Point, Outlook, One Note)

AWARDS

Young Dietitian of the Year, American Dietetic Association, Puerto Rico Affiliate ■ 2002

Achievement Award, Center for Research on US Latinos HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse ■ 2007

GRANT WRITING EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

Title: Diet patterns and drug use among Latinas

Support: National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Predoctoral Fellowship Award (F31)

Project goals: Describe the dietary intake among Hispanic women with reported substance abuse and how it relates to the varying levels of illicit drugs use, heavy alcohol use and/or non-medical use of prescription drugs. An observable association between dietary patterns and addiction severity may contribute to increase our understanding of the health consequences of drug abuse by a measure of dietary quality and to target interventions for substance abusers

Responsibilities: Principal investigator

Funding approved \$28, 497

Date: 2006-2007

Title: Multilevel immigration factors and Latino males drug use

Support: National Institute of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse

Project goals: This study primary objective is to explore the role that contextual factors such as pre and post immigration factors have on the process of acculturation of Latino young adult males ages 18-34, and in turn, what effect acculturation has in influencing the illicit drug use behavior of these young adult Latino males.

Responsibilities: Research assistant - grant writer

Funding not approved

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Evidence Analyst at the Evidence Analysis Library from the American Dietetic Association (2007-present)

- Critical analysis and standard rating of the evidence included in peer-reviewed research articles for different topics in dietetics & nutrition.

Researcher and Outreach Coordinator at Center for Research on US Latinos HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse (NIDA grant # R24 DA 14260-01A1) (2004–2007)

- Developed and implemented a 24-hour dietary recall protocol using the 5-step multiple pass method, designed for NHANES, to collect data from Latino women in Miami, FL.
- Coordinate and implement outreach strategies to recruit Latino women for a one time face-to-face interview to learn about substance using behaviors among Latino mothers and daughters in Miami, FL.
- Data collection and preliminary analysis for a study on the intergenerational drug use among Latina mothers and daughters.
- Conducted a secondary analysis of NHANES national survey data to identify dietary patterns among Latinas (>50 y/o) as it related to cardiovascular disease risk factors and alcohol use.

- Coding of qualitative interviews among Hispanic gang members to learn about the factors associated to the onset of substance use.
- Contributed in the preparation of a grant proposal to NIH to investigate the relationship between acculturation and the health of immigrants and their substance use in the US.

Research assistant (2003-2004)

- Participated in the revision of the Florida Dietetic Association Diet Manual.
- Conducted a comprehensive review of the literature on the cost-effectiveness of medical nutrition therapy for the management and prevention of chronic diseases. Benefits to older adults and the impact to public health from medical nutritional therapy were also included in this review. The document was submitted to the State of Florida Legislature for consideration of improving insurance coverage for nutrition services.

Masters' Thesis research (2000-2002)

Hygienic quality of street vended ice cream

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, University of Puerto Rico Jan. 2008-present

Río Piedras Campus,

Escuela de Ecología Familiar y Nutrición

Courses assigned include Principles of Statistics for Nutrition students, Nutritional Biochemistry, Supervised Practicum of Nutrition Education and Food Purchasing for Institutions. Currently a contributing member of the sub-committee assigned to prepare the curriculum standard to complete the Self-Study for re-accreditation of the nutrition program under the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetic Education (CADE).

Nutritionist / Dietitian, Caparra Wellness Center, PR 2002 - 2003

Provided medical nutrition therapy and counseling to individuals as referred by primary physician. Counseling included weight management, diabetes and other chronic diseases. Offered education and diet instruction to maintain adequate food and nutrient intake for individuals undergoing bariatric surgery.

Nutritionist / Dietitian, Triple – S, Inc., PR 2001 - 2003

Contributed in the design and development of a nutrition education program using Disease Management principles. Developed nutrition education materials and newsletters for the insured. Prepared and conducted nutrition conferences and educational activities at the workplace according to the health needs of the population. Educational program focus: Weight Management, Diabetes, Asthma and Prenatal care.

Nutritionist / Dietitian, Doctor's Weight Loss Center, PR 2001 - 2001

Provided counseling and diet instruction for weight loss and designed adequate calorie reduction diets for individuals.

Dietetic Intern , Veterans Administration Medical Center, PR	1999 - 2000
Counseled patients to meet their dietary needs according to medical condition under supervision of a licensed dietitian. Revised and designed education materials for patients. Determined dietary requirements and made appropriate modifications.	
Dietetic Technician , Ashford Presbyterian Hospital, PR	1998-1999
Activities Coordinator , Caribe Hilton Hotel, PR	1995-1998

PUBLICATIONS, PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- De La Rosa, M., Dillon, F., Ganapati, E., Rojas, P., Prado, G., Pinto E. (In Press, Spring 2010). Mother-daughter attachment and substance abuse among Latinas in the United States. *Journal of Drug Issues*.
- Rahill, G. Pinto, E. (In Press, 2009). The Practice and Use of Informal Injectionists among U.S. Haitian and Latino Immigrants: A Call for Health Research to Inform Health Practice. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*. 9(3).
- Rahill, G., Pinto, E., Vanderbiest, A. & Rice, C. (In Press, 2009). What Is Relapse? a Contemporary View of Treatment for Alcoholism. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*. 9(3).
- Pinto, E., Rice, C., Weddle, D. & Rahill, G. (2008). Dietary patterns derived by cluster analysis and cardiovascular risk factors among Hispanic women; NHANES 2001-2002. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, 108(2): 248-256.
- De La Rosa, M., Rahill, G., Rojas, P. & Pinto, E. (2007). Cultural adaptations in data collection: field experiences. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Use*, 6(2):163-80.
- Rojas, P., Duan, R., Pinto, E., De La Rosa, M., Craig, S. (September, 2007) Cultural Identity and Diet Quality in a Community Sample of Latino Women. Poster presented at the 2007 National Hispanic Science Network Annual Conference, Miami, FL.
- Pinto, E. De La Rosa, M., Weddle, D., Newman, F., Rafie, C., Dixon, Z., Himburg, S. & Rojas, P. (April, 2007). "Diet Quality among a Community Sample of Latinas reporting drug and alcohol use; The Latino Women's Study". Poster session presented at the 2007 Annual Experimental Biology Conference, Washington, DC.
- Pinto, E., Rice, C., Weddle, D. & Rahill, G. (March, 2007). "The Relationship among Cardiovascular Risk Factors, Dietary Patterns, Alcohol Consumption and Ethnicity among Women 50 Years and Greater". Presented at the Annual Forum of Research and Education of the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus. San Juan, PR.
- Rahill, G., Pinto, E., Vanderbiest, A. & Rice, C. (January, 2007). *What Is Relapse? a Contemporary View of Treatment for Alcoholism*. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work Research. San Francisco, California.

- Pinto, E., Rice, C., Weddle, D. (September, 2006). *Dietary patterns of older women; Analysis of NHANES 2001-2002*. Poster session presented at the 2006 Annual Food and Nutrition Conference of the American Dietetic Association, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Pinto, E., Rojas, P., De La Rosa, M. & Rahill, G. (September, 2005). *Data collection phase of drug using and non-using Latino women: field experiences*. Poster session presented at the Fifth National Conference of the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse, Miami, FL.
- Pinto, E. (January, 2005). *Predoctoral fellowship application; Dietary patterns and substance use among Latino women*. Poster session presented at the first annual conference of the Center for Research on US Latinos on HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse, Miami, FL.
- Pinto, E. (2003). Calidad higiénica de helados distribuidos por vendedores ambulantes. *Equilibrium*, 3, 23.
- Pinto, E. (2002). Contaminantes ambientales en los alimentos. *Equilibrium*, 2,18.

GUEST LECTURER

Florida Career College, Miami, FL - Medical Lecture Series, Nutrition and substance abuse, 2005

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editor, American Dietetic Association, PR Chapter, San Juan, PR 2002 - 2003
Served as editor and coordinator for the association's newsletter that is provided to all members.

Secretary, Association of Graduate Students in Dietetics and Nutrition - FIU University 2004-2005

Vice-President, Association of Graduate Students in Dietetics and Nutrition - FIU University 2005-2006

President, American Dietetic Association, PR Chapter, San Juan, PR 2008-2009

Advisor, American Dietetic Association, PR Chapter, San Juan, PR 2009-2010

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/LICENSURES

- American Dietetic Association
- Registered Dietitian
- Member of "Colegio Nutricionistas y Dietistas de PR"
- Licensed Dietitian in Puerto Rico - licencia #1249 – Registro de Profesionales de la Salud
- National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse
- American Society for Nutrition