"Hispanic Health Initiative: Student Experiences with a Patient Navigator Program"

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## **Health Disparities**

Racial and ethnic disparities in health care and mortality
Well documented
Poorly understood.
Marginalized



### **Increase in Hispanic Population**

Recent new growth area the cultural norms and health beliefs of the Hispanic population are less well understood by health care providers

Language barriers, poverty, and cultural differences with poorer utilization of preventive services





### **MUSC Hispanic Health Initiative**

to create educational innovations that address cultural effectiveness among nursing faculty and students

- to expand the availability of health services in the Latino community,
- to promote health services research that improves health outcomes

### **Traditional Patient Navigator**

- Lay person who appreciates the patient fears and advocates for individuals, families, or communities
  - scheduling appointments
  - identifying transportation to medical appointments
  - serving as a medical interpreter (if qualified), and
  - providing educational and emotional support for individuals and families.



# HHI Scholars Program

- The MUSC College of Nursing has a 4 semester, 16 month accelerated baccalaureate program.
- 6 cohorts students will be recruited, socialized, integrated, and activated into the patient navigator role over the course of this project.
- 3 cohorts have completed their experience
   4<sup>th</sup> cohort in the recruitment phase



### **HHI Experiences**

#### Socialization

- Meeting Hispanic community leaders
- Faculty led seminars
- Integration
  - Care of the Hispanic community in OB Peds, Community courses
- Activation
  - Community leadership experiences



#### Women's Health

- Paired with pregnant Hispanic family
- Prenatal
- Labor support
- Community experiences
  - Mom's Morning out
  - Health fairs
  - Migrant Head Start
  - Communities and Schools
  - Rural Mission
  - Reach 2010 Diabetes







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# **Focus Group**

#### What are the barriers you see in accessing healthcare





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#### Health Literacy and Well Women Care

- Communication and Empathy from healthcare providers
  - not receptive to patients, become frustrated, and do not try to understand the patients situation
- Transportation if the family does not have a car, or access to a car, they call a taxi to take them to their appointment
- Cost
  - have to pay everything out of pocket before receiving service. They often do not seek care until it is absolutely necessary because they cannot afford appointments
- Scheduling appointments
  - although they can communicate in clinics with Spanish-speaking providers, they have difficulty scheduling appointments over the phone.



How would you compare healthcare in the United States to healthcare in your home country?

- In Mexico, they also have to pay out of pocket for services, however, it is not as expensive. They are not denied care if they do not have insurance, and do not have to pay up front before receiving these services.
- Waiting time (in emergencies) is a big concern here in the United States, especially if you do not have insurance



# Jennifer and Amelia

#### 💹 Jennifer

a senior MUSC student nurse

#### 💹 Blair

Certified Nurse Midwife and MUSC & adjunct faculty

#### Market Amelia

- immigrated from Mexico
- 30 weeks gestation
- Second pregnancy, first in US

#### 💹 Maria

- 4year daughter
- Senor T
  - 🖉 husband

