

MARISA S. TORRES-RUIZ

EDUCATION

San Diego State University; University of California, San Diego

Doctor of Philosophy, Public Health, Health Behavior; Anticipated Date of Graduation: June 2024

The George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health

Master of Public Health, Department of Health Policy; December 2014

The University of California, Santa Barbara

Bachelor of Arts, Chicano and Chicana Studies, Distinguished Deans Honors; June 2011

Bakersfield College

Associates of Science, Biological Sciences, Human Emphasis; May 2009

HONORS & AWARDS

San Diego State University, Library Research Award	Spring 2021
University of California, San Diego, Hispanic Center of Excellence, Doctoral Fellow	Fall 2019 – Present
San Diego State University, Diversity Inclusion and Social Justice Research Award	Spring 2020
San Diego State University, Dean's List	2019-2020
University of California Santa Barbara, Deans Honors	Spring 2011
University of California Santa Barbara, Deans Honors	Fall 2009, 2011
Bakersfield College Pre-Medical Club, Scholarship	Fall 2009
Bakersfield College, Transfer Student Scholarship	Spring 2009
Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement, Transfer Student	Spring 2009

TRAINING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Global Health, Public Health Analyst (Intern)

(07/2021-Present)

- Support the enhancement and creation of new and existing database systems to meet program requirements. Maintain and monitor PEPFAR and other customized data systems to ensure database specifications meet specified standards. Recommend new work processes and solutions to improve the Bureau's data capabilities.
- Apply knowledge of administrative laws, policies, and regulations applicable to the administration of public health programs, including extensive knowledge of program goals and objectives, and methods of evaluation.
- Utilize professional knowledge of and skill in applying statistical and behavioral theories and methodologies to gather and interpret information to make decisions or recommendations for public health programs.
- Utilize comprehensive knowledge of a wide range of qualitative and/or quantitative research methods for the assessment and improvement of program efficiency and effectiveness or the improvement of complex processes and systems.

San Diego State University, Data and Evaluation Coordinator

(08/2019-Present)

- Manage online data collection repositories and evaluation processes for research participants.
- Compile reports and queries to assess trial progress and to inform project recommendations for research staff.
- Communicate findings of data monitoring and assist with troubleshooting data concerns. Provide technical support to students in data capture systems when needed.
- Mentor and train graduate and undergraduate students in research methods and professional development topics of interest.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Senior Program Associate

(07-2016-08/2019)

- Supported a portfolio of 18 comparative effectiveness research trials with an investment of \$75.3M with aims to address health and healthcare disparities or improve health systems of care.
- Evaluated the scientific rigor, relevance, and responsiveness of proposals for research through a letter of intent screening process and merit review panel.

- Monitored the progress of funded projects by managing a variety of project timelines and deliverables. Ensured appropriate documentation was recorded for all ongoing research projects and supplemental awards.
- Prepared and delivered presentations for internal and external audiences to assess the results of awards, impact of findings, and other PCORI activities.
- Conducted intramural portfolio research on topics related to team-based models and access to care; cultural tailoring in behavioral health interventions; chronic disease management; and patient partnerships and the advancement of health equity.

Bakersfield City School District/Lamont School District, Substitute Teacher

(09/2015-06/2016)

- Served as an interim educator in subjects including mathematics and science for elementary and middle school students. Prepared lesson plans or adhered to established learning objectives, graded exams, and reviewed student work for accuracy and comprehension.
- Maintained a positive learning environment that motivated students to participate in discussion and engage with course materials. Provided mentorship to students from low-resourced, migrant farm-worker communities.

UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, Dept. of Nephrology, Staff Research Associate

(03/2015-08/2015)

- Identified, screened, and enrolled end stage renal disease patients into a randomized controlled trial designed to increase patient knowledge on deceased and living donor kidney transplant.
- Monitored daily research activities for adverse events and fidelity to the study protocol.
- Performed data collection with patients via survey administration using REDCap software to assess participant knowledge, risks, and outcomes related to organ transplant.
- Prepared intervention materials for distribution to study participants and assisted with study progress reports to various governing bodies including the Health Resources and Services Administration and the UCLA Institutional Review Board.

Pan American Health Organization, Health Policy Capstone, Graduate Student Researcher

(09/2014-12/2014)

- Examined and compiled data on the national health system, health resources and public health infrastructure of Mexico. Analyzed region specific health determinants and challenges with access to healthcare impacting rural and metropolitan communities.
- Prepared a report detailing the findings of this research with recommendations for future steps for nation-wide improvement of health outcomes both domestically and internationally.

The United States Senate, Special Committee on Aging, Health Policy Research Intern

(02/2014-06/2014)

- Conducted legislative and content specific research for committee reports and projects on issues related to aging and health for older adults.
- Tracked legislation and attended congressional hearings, briefings, and special interest meetings on topics related to elderly Americans and the Older Americans Act. Communicated legislative developments to senior committee staff.
- Drafted memoranda for congressional staff and copy-edited committee materials including floor statements, reports, press releases and hearing materials for accuracy.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, HIV, Hepatitis and Public Health Pathogens, Health Policy Intern

(01/2013-12/2013)

- Served as a VA liaison and representative during federal interagency workgroups with the Centers for Disease Control, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and other agencies on topics related to HIV, Hepatitis, and other Public Health Pathogens.
- Developed new materials for VA physicians on clinical guidelines and Veteran education resources for treatment options. Assisted executive staff with the preparation of presentations, fact sheets, documentation,

and responses to congressional inquiries. Drafted language for updates to national policy directives and reviewed grants for federal program funding.

- Assisted with data cleaning and quantitative analyses for national reports, including the 2013 HIV Testing Report for the Office of National AIDS Policy and briefing presentation at the White House.

The University of California, Santa Barbara, Educational Opportunity Program Mentor and Chicano Latino Cultural Resource Center Manager

(08/2011-06/2012)

- Served as a peer-mentor for students and advised them on academic, social, and financial topics when professional counseling staff was unavailable or when a student preferred to speak to a peer concerning private matters. Facilitated workshops on university services and provided referrals to resources in the community for student support and assistance. Informed students of academic resources such as scholarships, skills workshops, and other services available to the student body.
- Managed the Chicano Latino Cultural Resource Center and organized events encouraging cultural education and understanding among faculty, students and staff.

The University of California, Santa Barbara, Educational Opportunity Program, Summer Transitional Enrichment Program Assistant

(07/2010-08/2010)

- Facilitated a summer bridge program for 150 first-generation university students to orient them to college life and the academic rigors of research university.

The University of California, Santa Barbara, Gevirtz School of Education, Research Assistant

(08/2009-12/2009)

- Transcribed, thematically coded, and archived 300 hours of field research videos in Spanish into a Transana software database for preparation of a dissertation on migrant education and parent groups.
- Analyzed higher education trends among agricultural and immigrant communities and compiled a report discussing the findings from the qualitative analyses.

La Casa de la Raza, Cesar E. Chavez Community Center in Santa Barbara, CA, Huehuetlatolli Program Facilitator

(09/2009-12/2009)

- Delivered science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning modules infused with Mesoamerican history to elementary students to promote cultural heritage and academic relevance.
- Tutored and mentored students in grades 3-6 from East Santa Barbara. Conducted outreach at local schools and in the community to increase the engagement of students in STEM fields.

Kern County Medical Center, Emergency Department, Research Associate

(09/2006-05/2009)

- Identified, screened, and enrolled eligible patients presenting to the emergency department into clinical research trials using medical charts, electronic databases, and patient records. Supported clinical research on topics related to pediatric influenza, pertussis, breast and ovarian cancer, and bone fractures.
- Attended weekly research seminars presented by clinicians on research methods, public health issues, and biomedical threats to public safety in Kern County and surrounding areas of central California.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS & ABSTRACTS

Manuscripts (published, under review and in preparation)

Torres-Ruiz M, Telles V, Arredondo E (2021). Border Walls and Barriers to Care: Latina Mothers and Access to Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic. [Book Chapter, Submitted and with editor].

Torres-Ruiz M, Soto S, Lopez N, Arredondo E (2020). A Strength-Based Approach to Cancer Prevention in Latinxs. Advancing the Science of Cancer. [Submitted and with editor; revisions pending].

Torres-Ruiz M, Robinson-Ector K, Attinson D, Trotter J, Anise A, Clauser S. A Portfolio Analysis of Culturally Tailored Trials to Address Health and Healthcare Disparities. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2018; 15(9):1859.

Abstract Presentations

Torres-Ruiz M, Arredondo E (2022). Assessing COVID-19 Trauma, Anxiety, and Moderators of Depression in Pre-Adolescent Girls and Mothers from San Diego County, CA. Society of Behavioral Medicine.

Torres-Ruiz M, Telles V, Wallick K, Rios C, Arredondo E (2021). Faces and Places of Research: Factors that Influence Participant Engagement in Research Among Latinx Communities. San Diego State University, Student Research Symposium. San Diego, CA. [**Library Research Award**]

Telles V, **Torres-Ruiz M**, Wallick K, Rios C, Arredondo E (2021). Cultural Adaptations of Interventions to Improve Obesity-Related Health Outcomes Among Latino Youth: A Systematic Literature Review. San Diego State University, Student Research Symposium. San Diego, CA.

Wallick K, **Torres-Ruiz M**, Telles V, Rios C, Arredondo E (2021). Implementing Family-Based Interventions to Stimulate Physical Activity in Latinx School-Aged Children. San Diego State University, Student Research Symposium. San Diego, CA.

Rios C, Wallick K, Telles V, **Torres-Ruiz M**, Arredondo E (2021). Assessing Family-Based Intervention Strategies Targeting Obesity Among Latinx Subgroups. San Diego State University, Student Research Symposium. San Diego, CA.

Torres-Ruiz M, Arredondo E (2020). Colorectal Cancer Trends and Screening Modalities Among Californians in 2018. San Diego State University, Student Research Symposium. San Diego, CA. [**Diversity Inclusion and Social Justice Research Award**]

Maldonado M, Rodriguez S, **Torres-Ruiz M**, Haughton J, Wells K, Schneider J, Arredondo EM (2020). Investigating the Influence “Powerful Others” Have on Colorectal Cancer Screening Among Latinxs. San Diego State University, Student Research Symposium. San Diego, CA.

Torres-Ruiz M, Chimbete N (2020). An Analysis of Six Determinants That Influence General Health Status for Adults in the Golden State. Academy Health. Virtual Conference.

Duressa M, Jalowsky M, **Torres-Ruiz M**, Prum S, Anise A, Aggarwal P (2019). Improving Care in Federally Qualified Health Care Centers: A Focus on the Social Factors in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trials. Academy Health, Annual Research Meeting, Washington, DC.

Robinson-Ector K, **Torres-Ruiz M**, Prum S, Anise A, Aggarwal P (2019). Strategies to Enhance Retention in Patient-Centered Comparative Effectiveness Research Focused on Addressing Disparities. Academy Health, Annual Research Meeting, Washington, DC.

Prum S, Robinson-Ector K, **Torres-Ruiz M** (2018). Patient Partnerships and the Advancement of Health Equity. International Conference on Patient and Family-Centered Care, Baltimore, MD.

Torres-Ruiz M, Robinson-Ector K, Attinson D, Gummi S, Hall C, Moscou-Jackson G, Paterson C, Clauser S (2018). Team-Based Models and Access to Care: Linking Underserved Communities to Health Services. Academy Health, Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Robinson-Ector K, **Torres-Ruiz M**, Attinson D, Gummi S, Hall C, Anise A, Clauser S (2018). Chronic Disease Management: The Use of Chronic Care Model Elements in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute’s (PCORI) Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) Trials. Academy Health, Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Torres M, Attinson D, Hudson A, Robinson-Ector K (2017). Analysis of Cultural Tailoring in Behavioral Interventions. Research Centers in Minority Institutions, Translational Science Conference, Washington, DC.

RESEARCH & SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

SDSU University Grant: COVID-19 Stressors and Vaccine Uptake	(10/2021-Present)
Systematic Literature Review: Parenting Strategies for Eating and Physical Activity	(02/2021-Present)
Systematic Literature Review: Family Based Interventions to Decrease Childhood Obesity	(05/2020-Present)
Healthcare Delivery and Disparities Research Conceptual Model	(10/2017-08/2019)