



Student Research Conference

In-Person Abstracts

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

- Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Bianca Hunter, Graduate Student

Reducing Homelessness in Los Angeles County: Policy Strategies for Housing First

Faculty Mentor: Rui Sun, Public Administration

There are numerous underlying causes that contribute to homelessness, including, mental illness, substance abuse, cost of living and limited affordable housing. These causes have led to a dramatic increase in the homeless population over the years. The county of Los Angeles currently holds a total of 66,436 homeless persons in Los Angeles County (LAHSA, 2020). Homelessness is a wicked problem that requires meaningful solutions, and policies that can help prevent the issue from growing. Homelessness is an issue that does not necessarily have a “root cause” since there are several contributing factors, for this reason, there can be no single approach to a resolution. It is an issue that is never fully solved but repeatedly re-solved and requires government and nongovernment collaboration to find a meaningful and lasting solution. In recent years, the 'Housing First' policy has been implemented to aid in the reduction in homelessness in Los Angeles County. Housing First is a model that allows for placement into permanent housing, a non-treatment first focused approach. The model assumes that individuals can focus on barriers that contributed to homelessness once they are housed. While studies have shown that Housing First is capable of short-term housing retention, it does not directly address mental illness, addiction, and affordability to sustain long-term. The following provides three research-informed policy proposals for improving Housing First.

Edward Cruz, Graduate Student

Social Mobility and Income Inequalities: Work opportunities, working conditions, and fair wages

Faculty Mentor: Rui Sun, Public Administration

While the standard of living has increased due to phenomena such as Globalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, so have the disparities and inequalities. Individuals who face such inequalities experience challenges in social mobility. Social mobility is described as the ability for individuals in a society to achieve their full potential regardless of origin and background. Though, research indicates most societies are unable to provide conditions which allow individuals to achieve their full potential as socio-economic backgrounds influence an individual's social mobility. For example, the top 1% of income earners has seen a 158% increase since 1979 while the bottom 90% has only seen a 24% increase in income. Such outcomes affect an individual's outlook which may affect the economic growth of society. The three areas of importance include work opportunities, fair wages, and working conditions. Work opportunities are measured through unemployment levels, corresponding level of education with the unemployed, and demographics of the labor force. Fair wages are measured through incidence of low pay, adjusted labor income share, and various comparisons between top and bottom income earners. Working conditions considers number of hours worked per week, employee-employer relations, and workers' rights. This research study uses regression analysis to understand the importance of work opportunities, fair wages, and working conditions and their relationship to income inequality. This study uses International Labour Organization data.

Lamiya Hoque, Graduate Student
Public School Leadership During a Pandemic
Faculty Mentor: Rui Sun, Public Administration

The reality of COVID-19 has required schools to become more aware of the financial and resource disparities among school districts and among students. The board of education for each school district operates to serve the different wants and needs of their constituents. This study examines different leadership styles exhibited during the COVID-19 pandemic through three case studies. Leadership styles may be distinguished as the following: (1) Instructional Style, (2) Structuring Style, (3) Participative Style, (4) Entrepreneurial Style, and (5) Personnel Development Style. Specifically, the research questions are: (1) What types of leadership styles have exhibited at school district boards during COVID-19? (2) What factors have influenced the decisions of school district leaders? (3) How do different leadership styles of the district boards affect teacher engagement and student learning during COVID-19? Based on the interviews with the board members of these school districts in California, USA, the study anticipates that distinctive leadership styles lead to specific program development. The findings will contribute to the public administration literature and provide valuable resources for academic leaders.

Nate Hertweck, Graduate Student
Tragicomedy of Errors: Colonial Oppression, Conversion, and Martyrdom in The Island Princess and Beyond
Faculty Mentor: Kimberly Huth, English

For all of Western colonialism's conquests, perhaps the most transformative, deep-rooted, and enduring spoil of war is the generational collection of converted Christian souls. As Seventeenth Century Europeans began to expand their efforts to exploit resources, claim land, conquer civilizations, and impose their God-given religion the world over, Early Modern England was forming what would become the British Empire, and their attitudes toward the Eastern world and its people were driven by religious superiority. The spiritual and cultural damage was cataclysmic, widespread, and lasting, begging the question of how Christianity has thrived into the modern era in postcolonial cultures while other vestiges of colonialism have been duly condemned. A look at how this Western religious superiority plays out in the generalized Eastern world of John Fletcher's 1621 tragicomedy *The Island Princess* provides a historical glimpse into English attitudes of religious conversion, martyrdom, and dominance. Additionally, Thomas Hobbes's concept of the "Common-Wealth" and "perpetual war" in *Leviathan* can connect the religious aspects of colonialism represented in *The Island Princess* with the targeting of both bodies and souls simultaneously in the practice of proselytization. In the play's world and in our modern world, religion is a vehicle for power, and colonial peacemaking is merely a byproduct of victory and expression of prosperity on European terms. Specifically, the play's pair of pivotal apostate moments—the strong European Armusia's rejection of Islam and the changeable title character Quisara's conversion to Christianity—portray Early Modern English positions on religious conversion and martyrdom. Enabled further by the shifty moral ground and dangerous power hybrids of tragicomedy, this 400-year-old play's genre, action, and commentary predict Western colonialism's lasting legacy of religious oppression and teach us about the methods behind the modern stronghold of Western religious supremacy in postcolonial cultures.

Jasmine Hannani, Jessica Chan, Rachel Garcia, Kayla English, Graduate Student

The Lived Experiences of Neurotypical Individuals with Autistic Siblings: Occupational Participation and Balance

Faculty Mentor: Sheryl Ryan, Occupational Therapy

Families with autistic children face unique challenges that have the potential to influence the occupations of neurotypical (NT) siblings. The purpose of this study was to gain a better understanding of the occupations and occupational balance of NT children during their childhood, based on their adult reflections of growing up in neurodiverse families. Method: This study was a qualitative, narrative study that utilized interviews to obtain reflections from five adult NT siblings. Results: Data analysis generated several themes: family dynamics, hesitancy to acknowledge ASD, independent engagement in occupations, a different normal, and inclusion. Implications: Occupational therapy can support neurodiverse families by providing parent education and compensatory strategies to address the needs of all family members. In addition, due to societal stigma toward neurodiverse individuals, there is a need for more advocacy, education, and full inclusion of this population.

Stephen Wong, Mallory Sheldon, John Stokes, Sarah Taylor, Graduate Student

Understanding Social Participation Among the Previously Incarcerated Population: A Narrative Study

Faculty Mentor: Sheryl Ryan, Occupational Therapy

Objective: Formerly incarcerated individuals face many difficulties with reintegrating into society which is exacerbated by the lack of resources supporting social skills. This study sought to understand how prison affected social participation for previously imprisoned individuals. Method: Utilizing a qualitative approach, the researchers collected individual narratives by conducting interviews with 2 participants recruited from a community-based program (CBP). Researchers analyzed the interview transcripts by coding common themes on how social participation changed over time. Results: Participants struggled post-incarceration but involvement in CBP services provided them with the resources needed to reintegrate back into society. Implications: This study shows that CBP services can aid previously imprisoned individuals with life after prison. Particularly, how CBPs can support the occupation of social participation which can benefit many other aspects of an individual's life.

Natural Sciences

Gabriel Angulo, Graduate Student

Using Maxent Species Distribution Modeling to Project Suitable Habitat of Ponderosa Pine in Arizona

Faculty Mentor: Parveen Chhetri, Earth Science

The structure and dynamics of the forest ecosystem are responding to global climate change. Patterns observed include high tree mortality and changing radial growth patterns in dry southwestern United States. Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) is a significant timber species and understanding of its distribution is vital. Maxent species distribution modeling is an approach that utilizes species occurrence and environmental data to predict suitable habitats. This study used environmental layers gathered from worldclim.org and species occurrence data for Ponderosa pine in Arizona collected from fieldwork and published literature. The environmental data were based on Coupled Model Intercomparison Projects (CIMP). These climate models were featured in this past 2021 IPCC sixth assessment report (A6). The CIMP6 models contain projections for the years 2021 to 2040. Using these climate models for predicting suitable habitats will aid in the understanding of the future changes to the forest ecosystem in the United States. This study will also highlight the data preparation needed to utilize CIMP6 climatic variables using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

David Saldana, Graduate Student

Dendrochronological investigations of Pinus jeffreyi in San Jacinto Mountain.

Faculty Mentor: Parveen Chhetri, Earth Science

Over the past century we have observed global temperatures rise as a result of anthropogenic activities. Due to this change the spatiotemporal effects of droughts have increased as natural hazard. The purpose of this study to understand the changing response of California mixed conifer forests to the ongoing effects of a changing climate. To close this research gap, we have selected of Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*). As one of the most abundant species in the transverse cismontane regions its spatial distribution is within the bounds of various ecotones along the elevation gradient. By analyzing its radial growth by comparing Basil Area Increment (BAI) and Ring Width Index (RWI) we hope to understand the nature of past drought events and help predict future events. Tree cores were collected from three elevation belts – lower (1000 – 2000 m), middle (2000 – 3000 m), and upper (3000+ m). Cores processed using standard dendrochronological methods. Ring width was measured with the Velmex tree-ring measurement system and software (J2X). Visual cross dating and statistical tests (COFETCHA, ARSTAN, treeclim, bootres, and dplR) were used to remove age related noise. Findings from this study will help forest managers and the United States Forest Service manage the changing southwestern forest ecosystem.

Kimberly Campos, Graduate Student

Identifying Disparities in Air Pollution Exposure and Transit Access in the South Los Angeles Region

Faculty Mentor: Tianjun Lu, Earth Science

While transportation system is a crucial component in urban environments, traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) poses greater threats to historically marginalized communities (e.g., people of color, persons living in poverty) where community residents experience this environmental harm at disproportionate rates to their privileged counterparts. The South Los Angeles region of California receives more attention to TRAP studies due to the diversity of the population and transportation infrastructure throughout the region. This study examines the air pollution distribution, transportation access, and population demographics. Notably, this study conducts a spatial analysis on traffic-related air pollution exposure and infrastructure qualities (e.g., road densities, transit access, and walkability) alongside population demographics. Statistical tests determine the significance of disparities between air pollution exposure and transit access based on demographic factors. This study finds that there are significantly higher rates of air pollution exposure closest to major freeways, which coincidentally has high road density and higher population of historically marginalized groups. Additionally, distance to the nearest transit stops decreases towards the inner Los Angeles region, suggesting the public transit is more accessible within the more populated areas of the county. The study results will be helpful to identify areas deserving of directed mitigation efforts for improved air quality and access to equitable transportation options.

Angelo De Guzman, Graduate Student

Wildland-Urban Interface Controls Vegetation Recovery after Fire – A Case Study from the Station Fire

Faculty Mentor: Parveen Chhetri, Earth Science

Although wildfires play an integral role in ecological functioning and biodiversity, recent studies pose wildfires as a threat to vegetation structure, composition, and recovery. Elevation, soil erosion, fire intensity, and hydrology are major complex factors that affect vegetation structure loss. However, other factors such as the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and anthropogenic factors in conjunction may destroy forest vegetation further. WUI is the transition between unoccupied land and human development. Urbanization tied with the WUI has disrupted the soil profile and has a huge impact on vegetation recovery. The present study utilizes spectral indices and active remote sensing to assess whether WUI and non-WUI areas control vegetative recovery post-wildfire. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) uses electromagnetic wavelengths to highlight vegetation health and greenness as a proxy of vegetation abundance. Similarly, Normalized Difference Burn Ratio (nDBR) exhibits burn severity and highlights potential post-wildfire vegetation regrowth. Light detection and ranging (LiDAR) use pulsed light to measure vegetation biomass, carbon sequestration, tree canopy cover, and height. The first objective of this study was to assess spatial differences in healthy vegetation pre-wildfire and post-wildfire vegetation using NDVI indices. The second aim was to assess potential differences in post-wildfire vegetation recovery using nDBR indices. The third objective of this study was to highlight the significant differences in carbon sequestration and biomass coverage of WUI and non-WUI areas. A statistical analysis was conducted to determine the correlation between carbon sequestration and biomass coverage of WUI and non-WUI areas. Another statistical analysis was performed to differentiate the means of carbon sequestration and biomass coverage of WUI and non-WUI areas. Results indicate that WUI areas exhibit slower vegetation recovery rates than non-WUI areas.

Richard Quiloan, Graduate Student

Using Generative Machine Learning Models to Protect Patient Privacy

Faculty Mentor: Sanaz Rahimi Moosavi, Computer Science

Machine learning is transforming the world industry by industry. Over time and with more data, machine learning models progress to support humans in making more efficient and more strategic decisions. Machine learning generates a plethora of incredible opportunities, but it comes with an inherent and serious weakness in privacy protection. More specifically, the data of individuals that is used to feed machine learning models can be exploited by adversaries to remove privacy safeguards and access sensitive user information. In regard to machine learning, protecting data privacy is unique from traditional data privacy protection in that machine learning can be used to both preserve privacy and infiltrate privacy protections.

Machine learning is beginning to have a major impact in healthcare, a slow-to-evolve industry. Combined with the advancing progress in cloud/edge computing, mobile communication, and big data technology, machine learning has the potential to highly accurately predict outcomes and promote smart healthcare that can focus more on what is most important - quality care for patients.

The main goal of this project is to review and critically analyze all the generative machine learning models that can be used to preserve patient privacy in healthcare systems. We investigate existing approaches for generative machine learning models to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current state of research in such systems. We then employ a proof-of-concept generative machine learning algorithm to generate synthetic health data. This approach protects patient privacy by essentially removing the opportunity for adversaries to re-identify an individual patient through his or her data.

Result: After applying the 2G8 antibody on the Detoxi-Gel an ~ 43% or 0.3405 mg was recovered from the sample from 0.8 mg. The Endotoxin Units per milliliter (EU/ml) was 12,665 before cleaning and 0.15 EU/ml after.

Conclusion/summary: The FDA regulates the acceptable level of endotoxin contamination to be 0.5 endotoxin EU/ml. Thus, our purification method was successful in producing an acceptable levels of endotoxin in the 2G8 antibody. The purified antibody will be tested for its efficacy in protecting against fungal infections in mice.

Health, Nutrition, Clinical Sciences

Danielle Clay, Graduate Student

Non-Pharmacologic Interventions to Prevent or Reduce the Incidence of Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy: An Integrative Review

Faculty Mentor: Samira Moghrabi, Nursing

Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) is a complication that affects 68% of cancer patients receiving neurotoxic chemotherapy. Despite its long-lasting adverse impact on the patient's physical and psychological wellbeing, no medication has yet been identified to prevent CIPN. Consequently, nonpharmacologic interventions have been explored to identify alternative treatments to this devastating complication. Purpose: This integrative review was conducted to examine the existing literature relative to the most effective non-pharmacologic intervention in preventing CIPN in chemotherapy naïve cancer patients. Methods: CINAHL, PubMed, and Medline databases were used to identify relevant literature using the Boolean phrases "chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy" AND "prevention". Primary English articles investigating non-pharmacologic interventions to prevent CIPN in neurotoxic chemotherapy naïve adult oncology patients were included. The quality and level of evidence of each included article were assessed using the Melnyk and Fineout-Overholt's Hierarchy of Evidence for Intervention Studies. Results: Eight randomized control trials, two quasi-experimental self-control studies, one retrospective study, and one prospective single arm study were included in this review. Across these 12 articles, 6 interventions were investigated: (1) cryotherapy (2) hand compression (3) acupuncture, (4) exercise, (5) hands and feet massage, and (6) vitamin B complex supplements. Conclusion: The quality of the studies included in this review were limited by the study design, small sample size, and lack of post-intervention follow-up. Despite these limitations, exercise, acupuncture, and massage were the only interventions that have shown some promising effects. Vitamin B did not show significant impact on CIPN. Further studies on the safety and efficacy of cryotherapy and compression are needed. This review revealed a need for high quality, longitudinal large scale RCTs to better understand the benefit of these nonpharmacologic interventions in CIPN.

Noelle Wada, Salma Sudarmadji , Mayán Rodriguez , Graduate Student

The Lived Experiences of Internationally Adopted Children

Faculty Mentor: Sheryl Ryan, Occupational Therapy

An internationally adopted child living in a cross cultural and/or transracial family might struggle with forming their identity (Reynolds et al., 2016). Various factors, such as whether the family actively helps the adoptee connect with their ethnicity, contributes to establishing identity (Baden et al., 2012). There is little research regarding how the culture of the adoptee's birth country, along with the culture of the adoptee's family influences identity. Little is known regarding how cultural occupations, such traditions, might influence an adoptee's identity as well. Therefore, the purpose of this phenomenological study was to examine how culture and occupations contribute to the identity making of the adoptee. By using semi-structured interviews with adults of various ethnicities who have been adopted internationally, it was possible to get a glimpse as to how their culture and occupations were part of the identity forming process. Cultural occupations affect one's day to day life, helps cultivate pride, are affected by stereotypes, and helps connect families; all of which contribute to one's identity. With this information, parents and occupational therapists may be better equipped to support an adoptee navigating the path towards identity development. Keywords: international adoption, culture, occupations, identity, family.

Mina Kim, Roy Jeon, Lydia Lee, Mohammad Maabreh, Graduate Student

Perceptions of Male Occupational Therapists on Delivering Hands-on Care to Pediatric Female Clients

Faculty Mentor: Sheryl Ryan, Occupational Therapy

Male occupational therapists (OT) generally enjoy working in a female-dominated profession. Male OTs, like male nurses, may experience gendered care delivery and gender stereotyping. We examined an underexplored topic of male OTs' perceptions on delivering hands-on care to pediatric female clients. Methods: The phenomenological study conducted semi-structured interviews with four registered male OTs with at least one year of experience with the pediatric population. Results: Three themes emerged: relevance of the therapist's and client's gender, setting, and rapport. Male OTs consider their gender advantageous when working with the pediatric population. Conclusion: Within the larger conversation about male healthcare practitioners, the findings suggest that male OTs do not experience the same discomfort levels, liability concerns, and gendering as male nurses. The study helps reassure present and future OT practitioners who may be nervous about working with the pediatric population.

Ria Glassman, Nina Hoang, Kristina Ballard, Caitlin Terry, Graduate Student

My Therapist Is the Trees'': A Phenomenological Study of Experiences of Spirituality in Nature

Faculty Mentor: Sheryl Ryan, Occupational Therapy

The increasing number of adults suffering from symptoms of depression and anxiety is a call for occupational therapy interventions that address these symptoms in order to promote occupational balance. Nature-based interventions are an avenue for occupational therapists to support clients with exploring the domain of spirituality and improving mental health outcomes. The purpose of this study was to understand the role nature plays in spirituality for adults experiencing symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Method: A qualitative, phenomenological methodology was selected to assess participant's experience of spirituality through engagement in nature for eight adults. Horizontalization was used in the reduction process of the data analysis which assigned equal value to each participant's statements. Transcripts were coded by researchers individually and as a group to compare codes and find common themes.

Results: Data analysis revealed four main themes: (a) nature is healing, (b) nature provides connection (with the earth, others, themselves, and their spirituality), (c) spirituality is ineffable, and (d) spirituality is a practice.

Conclusion: The results from this study emphasize the interconnectedness of meaning-making, activities in nature, spiritual practice, and positive mental health outcomes. All participants expressed that their spiritual practice was integral to positive mental health outcomes. Therefore, the domain of spirituality needs to be emphasized during initial conversations and in subsequent interventions with the client. Nature can be used as a conduit through which OTs can effectively explore client spirituality.

Lisette Martine-Torres, Jenna Meyers, Sarah Milbrodt, Serena Ortiz, Graduate Student

The Influence of Traumatic Brain Injury on the Friendship Roles of Survivors

Faculty Mentor: Sheryl Ryan, Occupational Therapy

Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are a leading cause of long-term disability that create disruptions in the lives of survivors. Research has demonstrated that social networks can buffer some of the negative effects of TBI. This study aimed to investigate how a TBI influences the friendship roles of survivors.

Methods: This study was designed as a qualitative, phenomenological study in which three individuals with TBI participated in a semi-structured interview.

Results: Data analysis generated 4 themes: (a) personality and cognitive changes impact friendships, (b) learning compensatory friendship strategies, (c) changes in abilities and tolerance for activities limit social interactions, and (d) changes in perspectives on friendship.

Implications: The results support occupational therapy interventions that promote the social engagement of survivors. Specifically, providing strategies for emotion regulation and communication and suggesting suitable activities and resources for survivors.

Claire Stacy, Lauren V. Sabihon, Cassandra R. Sigua, Araceli Villarreal, Graduate Student

The Career Development Process of Occupational Therapy Practitioners Utilizing Animal Assisted Therapy

Faculty Mentor: Sheryl Ryan, Occupational Therapy

Although there is ample evidence to support the psychological benefits of animal assisted therapy (AAT) with different populations and settings, there are few to no relevant studies that address the career development process of occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) utilizing AAT. This study employed a qualitative narrative design through interviews with four OTPs who have utilized AAT with dogs, which allowed the researchers to explore the participants' career development process. Researchers found that each participant used unique avenues of learning about and eventually utilizing AAT. One recommendation discussed introducing AAT within coursework more frequently and in depth. Another recommendation included having more AAT specific research in occupational therapy and continuing education courses that review interventions available to OTPs interested in AAT. Participants expressed it would be extremely beneficial to have official certifications for both the dog and OTP.

Emily Acker, Hannah Chang, Annabelle Clegg, Megan Gibson, Graduate Student

Exploring the Mothering Occupations of Women with Physical Disabilities

Faculty Mentor: Sheryl Ryan, Occupational Therapy

Despite the growing number of women with physical disabilities having children, little research has been conducted to understand their mothering occupations. Literature does show mothers had variable experiences with occupational therapists (OTs) (Wint et al., 2016; Powell et al., 2019). The purpose of this study was to explore the mothering occupations of women with physical disabilities to inform OTs on how to support this population. This study utilized a qualitative narrative method and photo elicitation. A total of six women participated. Interviews were transcribed and coded based on prominent features, then grouped into six themes: stigma, parenting strategies, adaptive equipment, social support, condition-related challenges, and interactions with OT. This study suggests OTs should educate themselves about the experiences of parenting with a physical disability. Effective interventions can include adaptive equipment, energy conservation, environmental modification, and advocacy.

Suzette Chavez, Hannah Mi Chang, Jessica German, Graduate Student

Community-based practice for underserved stroke survivors: A case study

Faculty Mentor: Sheryl Ryan, Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists are critical in improving the function and enabling performance of adult's post-stroke. Nevertheless, many stroke survivors are challenged with receiving essential rehabilitation services after inpatient discharge. The study's focus is to gain insight on the influence a community-based program has on post-stroke care and on the process involved in community-based program implementation.

Methods: A qualitative case study of a community-based stroke center was utilized. Semi-structured interviews of 9 participants, consisting of 7 underserved stroke survivors and 2 staff members, were conducted and transcribed. Thematic analysis was utilized to identify common themes that arose from transcriptions for data analysis and interpretation.

Results: Five themes were generated: 1) peer, staff, and family social support 2) improved physical outcomes 3) improved mental health and well-being 4) need for advocacy, and 5) need for resources and inclusion.

Conclusion: The study highlighted how the community-based stroke center provides stroke survivors with chronic rehabilitative care that is difficult to attain elsewhere. The stroke center allowed members to engage in meaningful activities and reintegrate into the community. In addition, the value of the center was recognized as a model that can be used in other cities.

Morgan Kumlin, Shekinah Laylo, Minji Kim Graduate Student

The Lived Experiences of First-Generation Immigrants in Los Angeles Navigating the Healthcare System

Faculty Mentor: Sheryl Ryan, Occupational Therapy

In 2018, immigrants represented 13.7% of the population of the United States, and despite their continuous growth in numbers, immigrants disproportionately represent the uninsured in the nation (Budiman, 2020; Vargas Bustamante et al., 2012). They are twice as likely to lack health insurance compared to native born Americans and are also more likely to spend more on treatment for mental illnesses that could have been prevented with access to insurance (Amuedo-Dorantes & Zhan, 202; Huntress & Kenney, 2014; Vargas Bustamante, 2012). In order to protect and promote the public health of the United States it is important to address the health of all residents. The objective of this study was to gain insight into the perceptions and values of English-speaking first-generation immigrants in Los Angeles County in respect to accessing healthcare, and how occupational therapists can bridge potential gaps in accessibility as cultural navigators. A qualitative phenomenological design was used to collect data through semi-structured interviews with six English-speaking participants and analyzed using coding and thematic analysis. Results revealed the importance of government funded programs to increase accessibility, utilization of services as mostly reactive instead of preventative, and the importance of a positive patient provider relationship. These findings indicate that occupational therapists can serve as cultural navigators by advocating for government-funded programs, health promotion and prevention, and by improving patient-provider relationships through therapeutic use of self which is a technique geared towards providing client-centered care and relationship-building.

Adriana Del Barco, Postback credential/certificate

Cervical cancer screening in patients on the Female to Male Transgender Spectrum

Faculty Mentor: Payman Nasr, Clinical Science

(ASC-H), and 1/82 (0.01%) low grade intraepithelial lesion (LSIL). Human papillomavirus (HPV) results were available for 40 patients; 10 were positive for high-risk HPV. Among the cases with atrophy, 2 had a prior Pap diagnosis of ASC-H, one LSIL with negative HPV test, one ASCUS with HPV positive. The remaining 14 atrophic cases were interpreted as negative, with 5 of them having HPV positive result.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the most common FTM transgender male cervical pap smear was NILM with atrophy followed by unsatisfactory. 2/82 of cases were interpreted as ASC-H cytologically, and subsequently diagnosed as atrophic in follow up. Pelvic exams to obtain pap smears may be challenging for transgender patients; therefore, in order to avoid unnecessary invasive procedures, appropriate history should be provided by the clinicians to assist the cytotechnologist who is screening FTM transgender male cervical pap smears.