



# EXECUTIVE REPORT

## 2017

## THE TEAM

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### FACULTY

**Tina Cheng, MD**  
Professor of Pediatrics

**Sarah Polk, MD, Sc.M.**  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

**Kathleen Page, MD**  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

**Lisa DeCamp, MD, MSPH**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Adriana Andrade, MD, MPH**  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

### TRAINEE/ STUDENTS

**Barbara Cook, MD**  
Medical Director, The Access Partnership

**Kathryn Kline, MD**  
Medical Director, Esperanza Center

**Suzanne Grieb, PhD**  
Research Associate

**Angela Orozco, MD**  
Fellow/JHH Resident

### STAFF

**Mónica Guerrero Vázquez, MS**  
Bloomberg American Health Initiative Fellow

**Sarahi Juarez Castro**  
Program Coordinator

**Tatiahna Rivera Rodriguez**  
Research Assistant

**Luke Silverman-Lloyd**  
Research Assistant

**Jacob Lowy**  
Research Program Coordinator

**Flor Giusti, LCSW**  
Social Worker, Mental Health Therapist

**Jessica Contreras, LCSW**  
Social Worker

**Alejandra Flores**  
Sr. Community Outreach Specialist

**Isabel Fernandez Abaunza**  
Community Outreach Specialist

### AFFILIATE FACULTY

**Rachel Thornton, MD, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

**Tania Caballero, MD, M.S.H**

**Zach Berger, MD, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Ana Ortega, BCHD**  
Outreach Worker

**Rheanna Platt, MD, MPH**  
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

## MISSION

To create opportunities for wellness and achieve equity in health, hand in hand with our Latino neighbors.

## VISION

Health and opportunity for all Latinos

## CONTACT US

[www.jhcentrosol.org](http://www.jhcentrosol.org)

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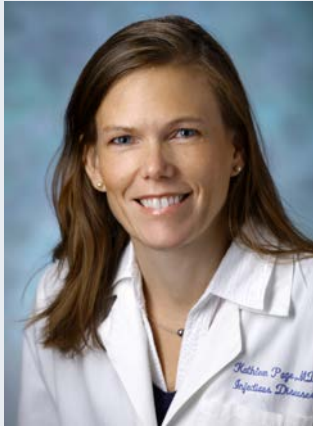


## GOALS

- To develop innovative **clinical** programs that reflect the unique cultural, language, and psychosocial assets of Latino populations.
- To promote **community** engagement and include Latino voices in clinical care, education, scholarship, and advocacy.
- To translate **research** to practice, programs and policies that improve the lives of Latinos.
- To train health professionals to provide care and conduct research that is **culturally competent** and responds to the needs expressed by the community.
- To **mentor** the next generation of Latino health Professionals, and instill in them a commitment for the well-being of their community.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

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**Kathleen Page, MD**



**Sarah Polk, MD, Sc.M.**

” *In Baltimore, Latinos have formed new families and contributed to the economic growth of our city. We firmly believe that we must not compete, but rather, stand together*

Dear Friends and Partners:

Centro SOL has been very busy for the past 18 months. National political rhetoric has been divisive, inflammatory and racist. Immigrants and their families have been among the targets of threatening language as well as harmful policies and laws. DACA remains repealed, travel bans are being argued over in court and leaked memos regarding, “public charge,” discourage people from using services for which they are eligible. The fear and sadness evoked by these words and deeds is evident in our patients, community members and colleagues.

As a result, our motivation for Centro SOL and its mission has never been stronger. We are writing more grants, hosting more community events and using our voice to advocate for those who must stay within the protection of the shadows. Thankfully, there are many who share our outrage and our determination. The annual report highlights some of the successes and partnerships we have developed or strengthened in the past year.

As always, the work presented in the report is a sample of our total portfolio and represents the contributions of many. We are more committed than ever to working together for the common good.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Page".

Kathleen Page, MD

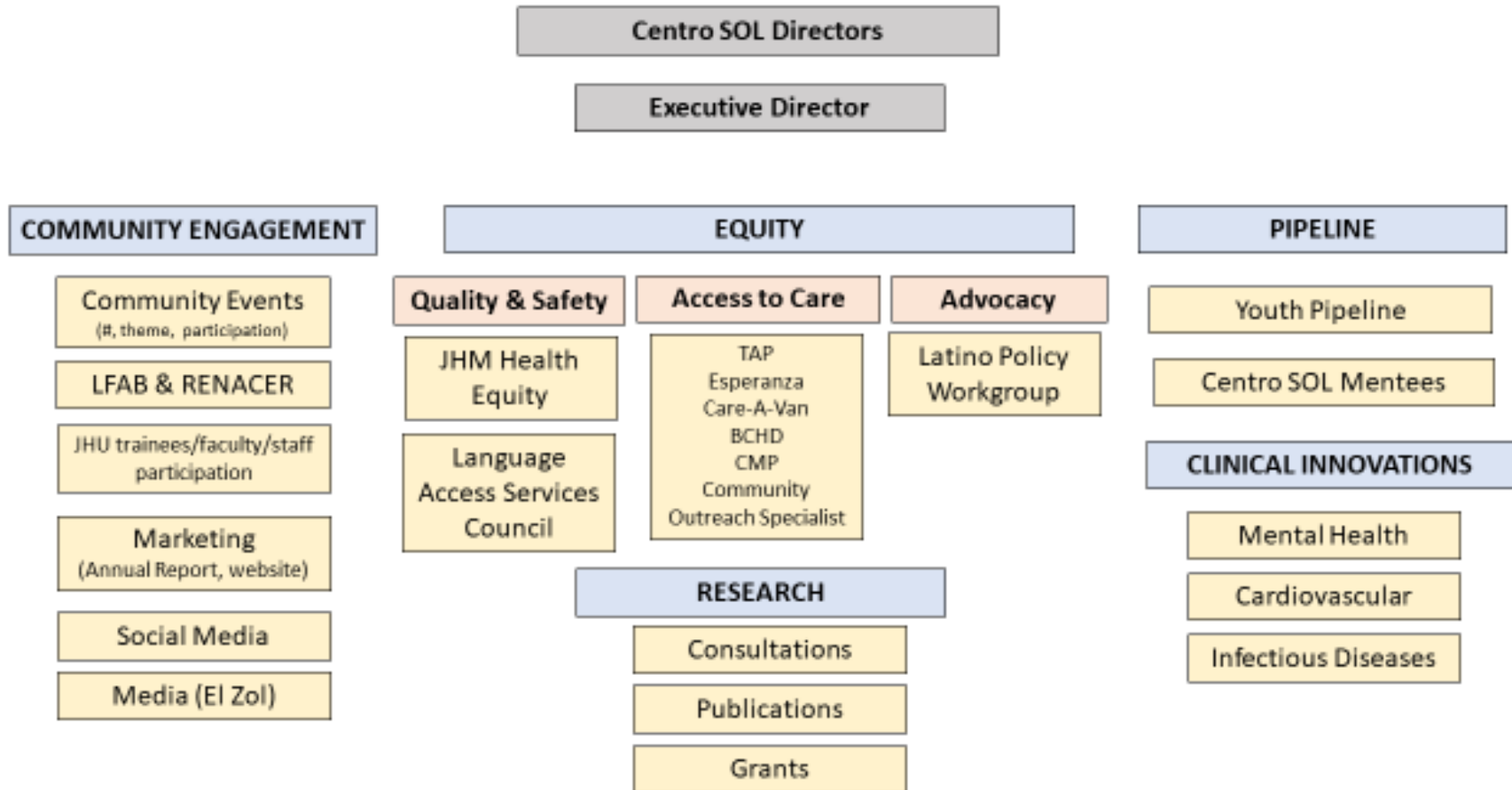
Associate Professor, Infectious Disease

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Polk".

Sarah Polk, MD, Sc.M.

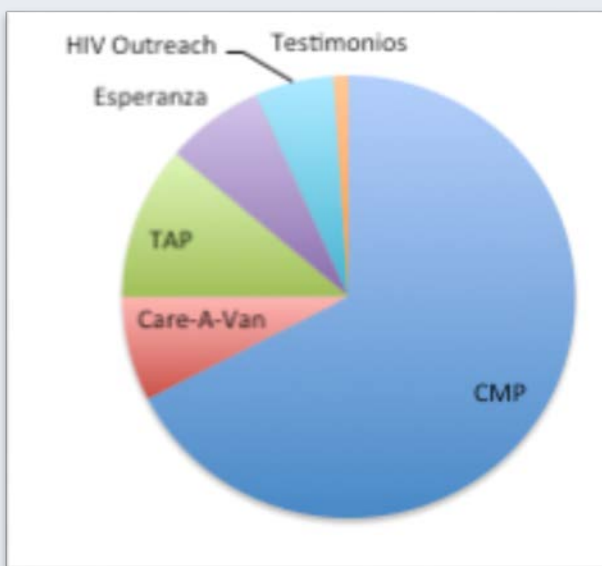
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

# CENTRO SOL STRUCTURE



## IMPACT

More than 17,000 Latino Patients Received Clinical Care



## EQUITY – ACCESS TO CARE

Objective: to increase access to culturally and linguistically competent care for Latinos

- **Bayview Children’s Medical Practice**  
In FY2017, served **12,900** Latino children, 10% increase since 2014.
- **Bayview Care-A-Van**  
In FY2017 served **1,350** Latinos, 100% of those individuals were uninsurable children and pregnant women.
- **The Access Partnership**  
In FY2017, TAP provided specialty care to **over 900** uninsured Latinx adults and children at the Johns Hopkins Hospital
- **Esperanza Center**  
A partnership between Esperanza Center and Centro SOL under the leadership of Dr. Kathryn Kline expanded access to primary care for undocumented Latinos and improved its health outcomes in diabetes and hypertension. In 2017, **3,397** individuals received care at the Esperanza Center, all were uninsured, and over 95% Latinx.

## EQUITY – ACCESS TO CARE (CONT)

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- **Health Care Access**

Latino children from Limited English Proficiency (LEP), mixed immigration status families face significant barriers to accessing equitable healthcare opportunities in the United States. LEP parents, are often unfamiliar with the US healthcare system, struggle to enroll and maintain enrollment for their eligible children in Medicaid. 75% of the Bayview Children's Medical Practice (CMP) patient population are the children of Latino immigrants. Despite their best efforts, many families at the CMP fail to maintain enrollment in Medicaid. Beginning in December of 2015, Centro SOL, partnered with Baltimore Corps to provide an on site, bilingual Community Outreach Specialist (COS) to help families at the CMP navigate Maryland Medicaid enrollment through Healthcare Access Maryland (HCAM). The goal is to improve and facilitate access to equitable healthcare services for the children of LEP Latino Immigrants. Referred patients work with the COS who collects all necessary information to enroll the patient in Medicaid or renew the patient's insurance. Depending on the patient's enrollment status, the COS will partner with an Eligibility worker from HCAM to efficiently enroll the patient. In 2017, a total of 982 families whose children receive medical care at the CMP received assistance from the COS, in the first quarter of 2018, our COS served 640 families.



## EQUITY- QUALITY AND SAFETY

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Objective: To improve culturally and linguistically competent care at Hopkins

### IMPACT

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Lisa DeCamp, MD, MSPH

#### Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Health Equity

Dr. DeCamp has been an advocate for quality healthcare for limited English proficient patients for many years, she was appointed to her new role in 2017.

#### Quality and Safety/Access Workgroup

Our goal is to improve access to language services for patients with limited English proficiency, and establish a platform to oversee quality improvement in cultural and linguistic competence throughout Hopkins. In 2016, the Spanish My-Chart was implemented, and the Spanish After Visit Summary (AVS) was piloted at several clinics.

- **Johns Hopkins Medicine Health Equity Strategy**

In 2017, our co-director Lisa R. DeCamp was appointed as the Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Health. The goal of JHM Health Equity is to assess the equity of care provided to JHM patients across race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, age and income and develop initiatives to reduce healthcare disparities when they are identified. This work will engage communities surrounding Johns Hopkins entities, including the Latino immigrant community. Dr. DeCamp works with health system leadership to coordinate this work across the system and ensure that health equity is reflected in the JHM Strategic Plan and operation goals. In addition through her work in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Dr. DeCamp leads a Johns Hopkins system wide quality improvement collaborative focused on improving the quality and safety of care for JHM patients with limited English proficiency

## IMPACT

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### Centro SOL Faculty Speak Out in Defense of Immigrant Rights



## EQUITY – ADVOCACY

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Objective: To propose health policies that are inclusive, regardless of immigration status

- **Latino Health Policy Workgroup**

Led by Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Vice Dean of the Bloomberg School of Public Health and former Maryland Secretary of Health, this group works with healthcare providers and administrators, public health and policy experts, and community partners to make policy recommendations aimed at improving equity for Latinxs at the local, state, and national level.

- **Johns Hopkins Latino Alliance**

Centro SOL faculty lead the JHLA with the mission to champion equity, academic and professional success and leadership for Latinxs at Johns Hopkins <http://latinoalliance.jhu.edu/>



Johns Hopkins Latino Alliance

## IMPACT

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Centro SOL Receives Funding from the Baltimore City Health Department for a Social Marketing Campaign to Reduce HIV Stigma in the Latinx Community



## CLINICAL INNOVATIONS

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### Mental Health- Testimonios and Teen Testimonios

An innovative mental health service model for Latino immigrants with regular support group sessions conducted completely in Spanish in the community and in schools. In 2017, **195 adults** participated in *Testimonios* the program is offered for adults, and includes meal and childcare **95 unaccompanied minors** from Baltimore City Public Schools participated in *Teen Testimonios* the school-based program based on using the Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools evidence-based curriculum

### Cardiovascular

- **Diabetes Prevention Program**

Our program, based at a community school, adapts and delivers the Spanish Diabetes Prevention curriculum from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sessions take place on a weekly basis, and it is offered in Spanish. To promote community engagement, a community member who participates in the program becomes a physical instructor after completing the entire curriculum. Program staff: Isabel Fernandez Abaunza, CHW: Maribel Martinez

- **Child Obesity Prevention**

Latino children have among the highest rates of early childhood obesity of any racial or ethnic group in the United States – over a third (38%) of US Latino Children are overweight or obese. Many Latinos face unique barriers to maintaining good health, thus it is imperative to develop and evaluate culturally and linguistically tailored obesity interventions for this population.

## CLINICAL INNOVATIONS (CONT)

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Active and Healthy Families (AHF) is a family-centered pediatric overweight group appointment program for overweight/obese Latino children developed by Contra Costa Health Services in California. Various adaptations were made in order to increase cultural relevance, including emphasizing a family-centered program, adding a *promotora* (community health worker), and considering risk factors specific to Latino children. We began piloting AHF at the Children's Medical Practice since September 2017 to assess whether this culturally tailored family-based program leads to significant decreases in child body mass index (BMI) and other measures and risk factors of obesity among our target population.

Program director: Sarah Polk

Coordinator: Luke Silverman-Lloyd

### **HIV Services**

Spanish-language campaign to address HIV stigma in the Latino community. Received 100k from CDC for an HIV Latinx Campaign

## IMPACT



Jose Dominguez (Summer Scholar, 2014) is a student at Morgan State University majoring in engineering. He obtained an associate degree from Baltimore City Community College through the Maryland DREAM Act. He was awarded with the Mid Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC).



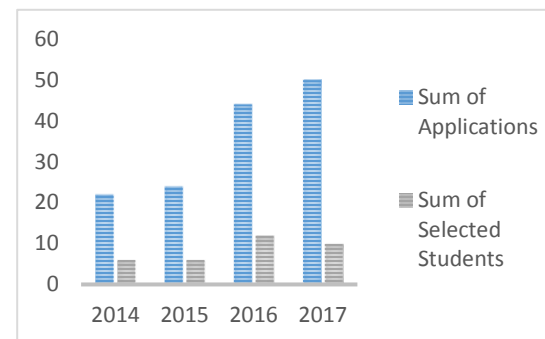
Monica Guerrero Vázquez was selected to be part of the Bloomberg American Health Initiative, a major investment in a healthy future for the United States. As a Bloomberg Fellow, she is leveraging her skills to implement and to evaluate programs from a public health perspective, and to develop innovative new programs to support young people and their families in the community.

## PIPELINE

**Objectives: To increase the number of Latinx youth exposed to medical and STEM careers**

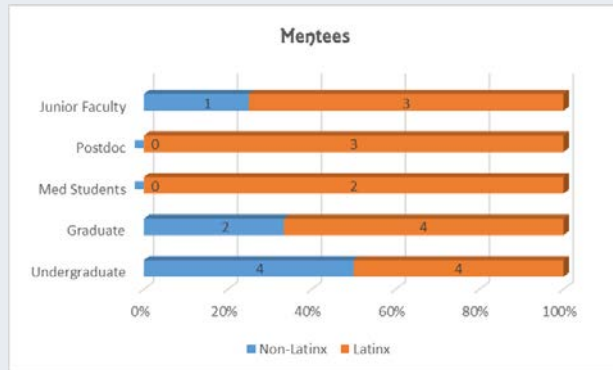
### • Centro SOL Summer Scholars

Since 2014, six bilingual Latino students have been selected each year through a competitive application process to participate in a 5-week internship at Hopkins which provides meaningful opportunities to work with Johns Hopkins School of Medicine faculty in research projects and clinical settings that serve Latino patients with limited-English proficiency. After their first year, students have the opportunity to become “returning scholars”, to strengthen their leadership skills, to network and to increase their research skills. 50 students applied in 2017 – 10 were invited to participate in our summer program in 2018.



## PIPELINE (CONT)

### IMPACT



#### • Centro SOL Mentees

Our mentorship program has been increasing since 2014. Our efforts are focused on promoting Latinx health, and leverage the opportunity of a diverse trainee cohort. In 2018, 10 peer-reviewed publications were approved, and 3 Latinx undergraduate students were admitted to medical school.

## IMPACT

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” You have done so much for us, and our children...we have this program as our Saturday morning plan.

*Participant, Embajadores de Salud*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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### **Latino Family Advisory Board**

Latino families meet monthly to make recommendations and advocate for better healthcare services for the community.

### **Renacer (Rebirth): HIV Latinx Advisory Board**

The HIV Latinx Advisory Board ensure that patient voices are included to the provision of services at the Johns Hopkins Bartlett Clinic and the Baltimore City Health Department

### **Embajadores de Salud**

Since the program inception in summer 2013, it offers health education and wellness activities to Spanish speaking population. Topics include hypertension and diabetes inspired by the “My heart, my life” curriculum developed by the National Institute of Health. Weekly sessions host 25 to 40 (80% women and 20% men) adults and their children.

### **Latino Health Conference**

Our Annual Conference since 2015, has addressed timely themes affecting the Latinx population. In 2017, our conference was held at the William H. Welch Library titled: “The Value of Latino Health Research during Changing Times.” Topics included community and academic partnerships, funding, and challenges and opportunities in research. Thirty organizations presented, 20 speakers and panelists participated, and over 80 individuals attended.

## IMPACT



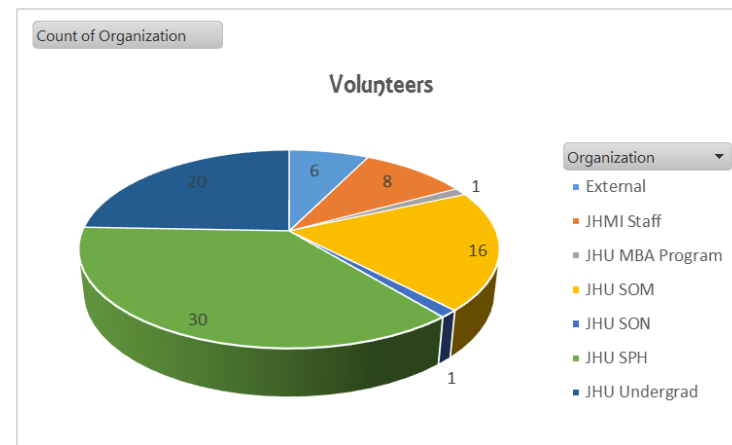
### Six Months Later: Public Health Crisis in Puerto Rico Following Hurricane Maria

Cosponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Centro SOL and the JHLA organized a symposium to discuss the aftermath of Maria for the President Daniel's Race Relations Forum.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CONT)

**Volunteers:** Our cohort of volunteers is fundamental for our presence in the community and engagement. In 2017, a total of 82 registered volunteers have supported community activities and



### Marketing and Communications

Centro SOL is present online with our blog, newsletter distributed to over 900 subscribers, and social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (with over 1,500 followers). In addition, our faculty participate in a monthly health program at the CBS El Zol Radio station which serves Maryland, D.C., and Virginia.





## RESEARCH



*“I enjoyed learning about the support that is offered at the clinic in Spanish, and that I am not alone in caring for my baby. Sometimes we [mothers] feel alone and don't know what to do, but now I know that I can always call with questions and someone will help me.*

Salud al Día study participant

**Objective: to increase the number of research projects conducted at Hopkins that successfully include the Latino population**

### Research Consultation Services

This program assists Johns Hopkins researchers in conducting high quality health research inclusive of Latino populations, especially those with limited English proficiency (LEP). Researchers are given assistance with the IRB process, access to translations and interpretation services, recruitment, and dissemination and community engagement.

### Epidemiological Latinx profiles

Centro SOL partnered with the Global Public Health Observatory to identify the main risk factors affecting the epidemiological profile of the Latinx population in the neighborhoods of Baltimore City. The project started by exploring the nature and frequency of healthcare utilization for mental health problems among Latinos who received outpatient care between 2012-2015 through The Access Partnership (TAP) of Johns Hopkins Medicine. This program covers primary and specialty services to uninsured patients living within ZIP codes in the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Bayview catchment area without regard to documentation status. As a result, among all health conditions, mental health disorder was the most common category, accounting for 14.88% of all encounters. Mood (78%) and anxiety disorders (16%) were the most prevalent diagnoses, representing a significant public health problem in the Latinx population served through TAP. The project has evolved to tackle the issue by collaborating with Baltimore City Public Schools and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs led by the Global Public Health Observatory, which aims to assess the gradients of mental health and social support needs amongst immigrant and refugee youth in order to provide culturally appropriate mental health services for these populations. PI: Dr. Carlos Castillo-Salgado, Research Assistant: Linda Bucay-Harari

## IMPACT

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Salud al Día: The study presents educational videos to the participants.

## RESEARCH (CONT)

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### Grants Funded in 2018:

#### **Salud al Día**

This study integrates text messages and educational video components to address key gaps in the health care system knowledge, and promote the participation of Latino parents in healthcare. Funded by the Moore Foundation. PI: Lisa DeCamp

#### **Engaging Immigrant Latino Families and Community Stakeholders to Reduce Disparities in Child Obesity**

(PIs: DeCamp and Polk)

Engaging patients, families and communities in the design and implementation of intensive weight management for Latino children is crucial to inform and improve patient-centered research, and health care delivery. We will create of a network of patients, their families, community members, community organizations leaders, healthcare providers, healthcare payors and researchers in Baltimore. This network will provide input on the design and implementation of intensive community-based weight management programs.

#### **Kids Face Fears** (Co-Is: Platt, Polk and DeCamp)

We will test two different methods of delivering cognitive behavioral therapy for anxiety in kids—face-to-face versus online. We will test different sequences of care for kids who do not get better with the first treatment, as well as whether one format or sequence is better for certain families or in certain contexts. Parents, patients, and providers will be actively engaged to help support the successful implementation of CBT in pediatrics and to ensure that the intervention includes patient-centered outcomes and decision making.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## Awards

**Tina Cheng, MD, MPH**

Vice Dean's Award for the Advancement of Women

Trailblazer Award

**Inspired to Inspire Champions & Visionaries, Baltimore City Mayor's Office**

Flor Giusti

### **Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award**

2014 Kathleen Page (Service Provider)

2014 Andrew White (Volunteer)

2015 José Domínguez (Young Leader)

2016 Jennifer Méndez (Young Leader)

### **Johns Hopkins Diversity Leadership Award**

2013 Kathleen Page

2015 Adriana Andrade

2017 Monica Guerrero Vazquez

### **JH Clinical Excellence Award 2016**

Sarah Polk and Kathleen Page

### **Bloomberg American Health Initiative Fellow 2017**

Monica Guerrero Vazquez

### **Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Education Equity - Up and Coming Award 2017**

Jose Dominguez

## PARTNERS

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Baltimore Corps

Latino Providers Network

Faith Organizations

CASA of Maryland

Esperanza Center

Baltimore City Mayor's Office of  
Multicultural and Immigration Affairs

Healthy Community Partnership

Johns Hopkins Medicine  
TAP

Global Public Health Observatory

Urban Health Institute

LPNH

Fund for Educational Excellence

LMSA

El Zol Radio Station

Latino Opinion Newspaper

Mundo Latino/Somos Baltimore Latino

## ¡GRACIAS!

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Time flies when you're having fun!

We could not have come this far without the support of our funders, and the tireless energy of our Latino patients, friends and neighbors who are passionate about creating opportunities and promoting health for all.

There is still a lot of work to do, but every great journey begins with a step. We sincerely hope that you will join us for a long walk.

[jhcentrosol.org/about/partners/](http://jhcentrosol.org/about/partners/)

## FUNDERS

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The Straus Foundation

PCORI

Summer Collaborative

Johns Hopkins Center for  
Innovation in Medicine

Johns Hopkins Medicine

The Family League of Baltimore

# STAY CONNECTED

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## Visit our website

Learn about our center and our programs at [www.jhcentrosol.org](http://www.jhcentrosol.org)

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## Subscribe to our e-Newsletter

To receive regular updates and news about our programs email [centrosol@jhmi.edu](mailto:centrosol@jhmi.edu). We currently have over 800 subscribers!

## Volunteer

Let us know what your availability is and what is your program of interest, and we will make sure to match. Speakers, trainers, mentors are always a big need.

## Donate

Please consider making a donation to Centro SOL. Visit our website or contact us to learn more [www.jhcentrosol.org](http://www.jhcentrosol.org)

