

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Aragonés, Abraham

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): ARAGOA01

POSITION TITLE: Associate Member

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Universidad San Martín de Porres, Lima New York University, New York, New York Fellowship in Medicine and Public Health Research	MD MS Post Doc Fellowship	02/2002 05/2007 05/2007	Medicine Clinical Investigation Public Health Research

A. Personal Statement

As a health disparities researcher with interest in developing models to improve cancer screening and prevention in minority populations, my work seeks to design community-based interventions using tailored communication techniques and technology to address cancer health disparities found in minority populations. Specifically, my research focuses on designing and evaluating interventions to improve health care provider recommendation for cancer prevention and early detection and increase community knowledge, access and demand for these measures. At the core of my work is bringing together academia, community-based organizations and primary care providers serving large minority populations, to educate the population more effectively, promote risk reduction and behavioral change, overcome barriers, and ultimately, improve cancer prevention, early detection, and cancer outcomes.

For over 15 years, I have worked with the Latino populations in the United States to address the burden of cancer disparities, particularly in the areas of HPV-driven cancers and colorectal cancer. With support from an NIMHD R01 grant, NCI U54 and R03 grants and institutional awards, among others, I have implemented research projects seeking to increase utilization of the HPV vaccine and other cancer prevention and early detection methods. These projects have different methodologies, from qualitative to quantitative, and address the issues of cancer disparities from multiple perspectives and in multiple settings, including working with community-based and faith-based organizations; local and national governmental agencies; and primary care providers serving the Latino populations in large public hospitals, small community clinics and private practices.

Addressing low uptake of the HPV vaccine and, by consequence, low HPV cancers prevention is at the forefront of my current and future work. Despite the significant advantages of preventing HPV infection and the growing evidence that shows the benefits of the HPV vaccine to prevent cancer, vaccine uptake among eligible adolescents in the US and NYC continues to be suboptimal. During the previous 10 years, HPV driven cancer incidence and prevalence have continued to increase, as well as HPV driven cancer disparities. The need for multicomponent approaches to increase HPV vaccination are well supported by current evidence, and I believe cancer centers should prioritize addressing this issue with the achievable goal of eradicating some of the cancers caused by HPV within the next generation. To pursue these goals, I am currently working in multiple health programs, research projects, communication strategies, collaborations, and policies to bring health equity to low resource populations.

I believe my successful previous and current work, my extensive collaboration with multiple institutions and programs across the country, as well as my background, knowledge, expertise and career goals make me particularly well suited for the work proposed.

Recently completed projects that I would like to highlight include:

R01 MD011508-01A1

Role: Principal Investigator

09/28/2016 - 05/31/2022

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

EdTech-HPV: A Community Approach using Education and Technology to Increase HPV Vaccination

P30CA008748-54S5

Role: Project Leader

11/01/2020 - 10/31/2022

Administrative Supplements for the NCI P30 Cancer Center Support Grants to investigate vaccine hesitancy related to uptake of the HPV vaccine in regions with low adolescent HPV vaccination rates.

Social Media Misinformation and HPV Vaccine Hesitancy, An assessment of a cancer center catchment area.

R01NR015265-01A1

Gany (PI), Role: co-investigator

01/04/2015-01/31/2020

National Institute of Nursing Research

Taxi HAIL (Health Access Interventions for Longevity)

NIH/ U54 CA137788

Role: Principal Investigator

01/09/2014-08/31/2018

National Institute of Health (U54-Full Project)

Social Marketing and Technology to Increase HPV Vaccination Rates among Mexican American Children: A Randomized Controlled Trial

R24MD-008058-01

Gany (PI), Role: co-investigator

01/01/2013-01/31/2016

National Center of Minority Health and Health Disparities

The Taxi Network

Research Supplement

Role: Principal Investigator

01/09/2012-08/31/2014

National Cancer Institute, Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research

Building a Network of Community Primary Care Providers to Implement and Disseminate

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

2023 – Present Associate Member, Center for Discovery and Innovation, Hackensack Meridian Health, Nutley, New Jersey

2012 - 2013 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Hunter School of Public Health, City University of New York, New York, NY

- 2012 - 2023 Assistant Professor, Department of Healthcare Policy and Research, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY
- 2011 - Present Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Medicine, Graduate Program in Public Health, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011 - 2023 Assistant Attending, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
- 2007 - 2011 Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Medicine, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY
- 2005 - 2007 Post-doctoral Fellow, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY

C. Contributions to Science

1. My interest in minority and medically underserved populations in the United States comes from multiple sources, including my own background. I was born in Lima, Peru, and as a Latino, I have witness the lack of understanding among many health related programs, projects and policies, about the enormous diversity within the Latino population in the U.S. In addition, the size and diversity of the Hispanic population in the United States has dramatically increased, with vast implications for health research. In a published review, we highlighted the need to account for multiple variables, including at least race, ethnicity, country of origin, language, years in the U.S., and socioeconomic status to provide accurate interpretation of health indicators and helpful information in translational research. We proposed the adoption of a new set of characterization standards beyond ethnicity as an important foundational step to overcoming the many health disparities existing in the Hispanic population in the United States.
 - a. **Aragones A**, Hayes SL, *Chen MH, González J, Gany FM. Characterization of the Hispanic or Latino population in health research: a systematic review. J Immigrant Minor Health. 2014 Jun;16(3):429-39. PubMed PMID: [23315046](#); PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC4518558](#).
*Mei Chen is a medical student

2. There have been several barriers to increasing the HPV vaccination rate in the U.S. Many studies have evaluated this and proposed different solutions. In my work within the Latino population in New York City, I have investigated the barriers of Latino parents for obtaining the vaccine for their children. Although we found some barriers, we identified lack of health care provider recommendation for the vaccine as the main barrier. At the same time, by investigating barriers among health care providers for recommending the vaccine, we found that lack of time is the most frequent reason reported for not recommending the vaccine routinely. These two observations provide evidence to new interventions that aim at increasing HPV vaccination rates in the Latino population.
 - a. *Bruno DM, Wilson TE, Gany F, **Aragones A**. Identifying human papillomavirus vaccination practices among primary care providers of minority, low-income and immigrant patient populations. Vaccine. 2014 Jul 16;32(33):4149-54. PubMed PMID: [24886959](#); PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC4107630](#).
 - b. **Aragones A**, *Genoff M, Gonzalez C, Shuk E, Gany F. HPV Vaccine and Latino Immigrant Parents: If They Offer It, We Will Get It. J Immigrant Minor Health. 2015 May 23; PubMed PMID: [26001843](#). PMCID:[PMC4656145](#)

3. My fellowship on medicine and public health research, together with my masters of science in clinical investigation have giving me a solid structure to understand issues related to the provision of preventive care to minority populations in the United States. In multiple studies I have found that primary care providers have numerous barriers for recommending cancer prevention measures to their minority populations, more importantly lack of time to educate patients. Through several studies, we have proposed the implementation of interventions outside the doctor-patient encounter to recommend cancer prevention more importantly in safe environment like community based organizations that can streamline the information/education and recommendation of these measures.
 - a. Gany F, Trinh-Shevrin C, **Aragones A**. Cancer screening and Haitian immigrants: the primary care provider factor. J Immigrant Minor Health. 2008 Jun;10(3):255-61. PubMed PMID: [17647104](#); PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC3315358](#).

- b. **Aragones A**, Trinh-Shevrin C, Gany F. Cancer screening practices among physicians serving Chinese immigrants. J Health Care Poor Underserved. 2009 Feb;20(1):64-73. PubMed PMID: [19202247](#); PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC3314376](#).
- c. **Aragones A**, Schwartz MD, Shah NR, Gany FM. A randomized controlled trial of a multilevel intervention to increase colorectal cancer screening among Latino immigrants in a primary care facility. J Gen Intern Med. 2010 Jun;25(6):564-7. PubMed PMID: [20213208](#); PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC2869418](#).

Complete List of Published Work in My Bibliography:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/abraham.aragones.1/bibliography/44484143/public/?sort=date&direction=ascending>