



## Biomedical and Translational Research: Motivations, Challenges, and Perceived Rewards among Hispanics

Mildred Maldonado-Molina<sup>1\*</sup>, Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola<sup>2</sup> and Linda B Cottler<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Florida, Department of Health Outcomes and Policy and Institute for Child Health Policy, USA

<sup>2</sup>University of California, UC Davis Health System, UC Davis Center for Reducing Health Disparities, USA

<sup>3</sup>University of Florida, Department of Epidemiology, USA

\*Corresponding author: Mildred Maldonado-Molina, University of Florida, Department of Health Outcomes and Policy and Institute for Child Health Policy, 1329 SW 16th Street, Room 5130, PO Box 100177, Gainesville, FL 32610-0177, USA, Tel: 352-294-5797; Fax: 352-265-8047; E-mail: [mmmm@ufl.edu](mailto:mmmm@ufl.edu)

Rec date: Jun 10, 2014; Acc date: Jul 18, 2014; Pub date: Jul 23, 2014

Copyright: © 2014 Molina MM, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

### Letter

Two recent studies, by Hohl et al. (2014) and Cottler et al. (2013) [1,2], provide support for the need to meaningfully engage underrepresented minorities as invested parties in community-based participatory research to address inequalities in health.

Hohl et al. (2014) [1] published a study entitled “I Did It for Us and I Would Do It Again: Perspectives of Rural Latinos on Providing Biospecimens for Research”. Investigators reported results from 39 semi-structured interviews to understand the perspectives of rural Latino farmworkers and non-farmworkers living in Yakima Valley, Washington, on providing biospecimens for research.

Findings from Hohl and colleagues should be interpreted in light of a recent, larger study published by Cottler et al. (2013) [2], entitled “Community Needs, Concerns, and Perceptions About Health Research: Findings from the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Sentinel Network”. This study included nearly 6,000 people from 5 sites in the United States including 1,001 Hispanic/Latino adults. Data were collected by Community Health Workers.

Findings from the Sentinel Network in particular provide new insight into a larger and heterogeneous population of Hispanics and additional evidence in each of the three themes identified by Hohl et al. (2014) [1], including a research participant’s: (1) motivations, (2) challenges, and (3) perceived rewards. The Sentinel Network reported that Hispanics (84.5%) were more motivated to participate in research studies than Asians (79.7%), but less motivated than Whites (85.5%)

and African Americans (91.0%). Similarly, 75.5% of Hispanics reported a higher willingness to participate in research studies even if they had to give a blood sample compared to Asians (57.2%), but were less likely when compared with Whites (77.7%) and African Americans (82.6%). Related to rewards and compensation for a hypothetical study that involved 1.5 hours in duration and the collection of a blood sample, Hispanics reported a lower price point for what they considered a fair compensation rate (\$75) to be compared with African Americans (\$82); the rate was higher than Whites (\$62) and Asians (\$69).

Overall, findings from the CTSA Sentinel Network provide support and extend the efforts by Hohl et al. (2014) [1] to better understand the perceptions and perspectives of minorities’ communities to engage in biomedical, clinical, and translational research. Findings are relevant to the inclusion of underrepresented minorities in health-related research and the design of patient-centered interventions to reduce negative health outcomes that disproportionately influence racial and ethnic minorities.

### References

1. Hohl SD, Gonzalez C, Carosso E, Ibarra G, Thompson B (2014) I Did It for Us and I Would Do It Again”: Perspectives of Rural Latinos on Providing Biospecimens for Research. *Am J Public Health* 104: 911-916.
2. Cottler LB, McCloskey DJ, Aguilar-Gaxiola S, Bennett NM, Strelnick H, et al. (2013) Community Needs, Concerns, and Perceptions about Health Research: Findings From the Clinical and Translational Science Award Sentinel Network. *Am J Public Health* 103: 1685-1692.