

CURRICULUM VITAE

Alma I. Behar, MPH

School of Public Health, San Diego State University | Email: aibehar@sdsu.edu

Research Areas:

Behavioral and social determinants of health; health disparities; prevention of childhood obesity and related health conditions; health inequalities among socially and economically vulnerable youth; physical activity & sports in children and adolescents; physical activity measurement; ecological momentary assessment methods.

EDUCATION

PhD(c), Public Health (Global Health), expected 2022
SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health

MPH, Epidemiology, 2015
San Diego State University, School of Public Health

BA, Spanish (Minor: Psychology), 2004
University of San Diego, College of Arts and Sciences

RESEARCH TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-Present **Project Coordinator**, *Hispanic Centers of Excellence (SDSU) Scholarship Program*
San Diego State University | College of Health and Human Services

2020 **Program Director**, *Master of Public Health Online Program*
San Diego State University | Global Campus

2019 **Survey Support Assistant**, *HealthLINK Ctr. for Transdisciplinary Health Disparities Research*
San Diego State University | College of Health and Human Services

2018 – 2019 **Project Manager**, *Evaluation of Resident Leadership Academy Program*
San Diego State University | School of Public Health

2017 – 2018 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Athletes for Life (AFL)*
San Diego State University | School of Public Health

2015 – 2016 **Project Manager**, *Mentoring Diverse Students in Health Disparities Research*
San Diego State University | School of Public Health

2014 – 2016 **Research Data Manager**, *Lucas de Cambio: Childhood Obesity Prevention & Control RCT*
San Diego State University | School of Public Health

2014 **Staff Research Associate**, *Project BRIC: Building Research Integrity and Capacity*
UC San Diego | School of Medicine

2014 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Evaluation of a Kidney Disease Education Program*
ResearchWorks, Inc., San Diego, CA.

2013 – 2014 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *iDash: Partnership for Epidemiological Research in Latinos*
San Diego State University | School of Public Health

2010 – 2013 **Project Coordinator**, *Clinical Trials Education Program for Hispanics*
UC San Diego | Moores Cancer Center

2006 **Research Assistant**, *Culturally-Based Family Intervention for Mexican Americans*
San Diego State University | School of Social Work

2005 – 2006 **Psychometrist**, *PRAC: Practice & Research, Advancing Collaboration*
UC San Diego | Department of Psychiatry

2004 – 2005 **Research Assistant**, *Ethnocultural Factors in Serious Mental Illness*
San Diego State University | School of Social Work

GLOBAL HEALTH FIELD EXPERIENCE

San Quintín, Baja California (Mexico), 2016-2018

Parent Project: Viaje Interinstitucional de Integración Docente, Asistencial y de Investigación (Brodine, PI)

Studies: *Assessment of Physical Activity Status of Children Ages 8 to 11 Years* (Spring 2018); *Prevalence and Correlates of Intestinal Parasitosis among Schoolchildren* (Fall 2017); *Assessment of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of Adolescent Girls* (Spring 2017).

Iquitos (Peru), 2017

Parent Project: Determinants and Consequences of Human Behavioral Responses to Dengue Severity (Elder, PI)

Study: *Gender Roles and Responsibilities: Vulnerability to Dengue and Zika Infection among Women and Girls in Peru* (Summer 2017).

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

San Diego State University | School of Public Health

Instructor of Record

PH 101 Introduction to Public Health (50-150 students) – Undergraduate Course
Summer 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Summer 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019

Guest Lectures

PH 664 Health, Society and Human Behavior – Masters Course

- “Survey Development” (*Spring 2019*)
- “Barriers to Participation in Physical Activity & Sport Among Rural School-Aged Children” (*Spring 2018*)

Teaching Assistantships

PH 800 Professional Seminar in Public Health – Doctoral Course (*Fall 2019*)

PH 626 International Health Epidemiology – Masters Course (*Fall 2014*)

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Scholar, *Hispanic Centers of Excellence*, SDSU, 2019

Scholar, *Public Health Dissertation Research Scholarship*, SDSU, 2018

Scholar, *Hispanic Centers of Excellence*, SDSU, 2018

Inamori Fellow, *Inamori Fellowship Program*, SDSU, 2017

Recipient, *Student Research Symposium Common Theme Research Award*, SDSU, 2015

Scholar, *Hispanic Centers of Excellence*, SDSU, 2014

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

1. Crespo, N.C., **Behar, A.I.**, Garcia, M. L., Elder, J.P., Holub, C. (2017). Reducing Obesity-Related Health Disparities in Hispanic and Latino Populations in the United States: Update. *In Oxford Bibliographies in Public Health*. Ed. David McQueen. New York: Oxford University Press. doi: 10.1093/OBO/9780199756797-0105

Journal Articles (Total = 11)

1. Szeszulski, J., Vega-López, S., Todd, M., Ray, F., **Behar, A.**, Campbell, M., ... & Crespo, N. C. (2020). Athletes for life: Rationale and methodology of a community-and family-based randomized controlled trial to promote cardiovascular fitness among primarily Latino families. *Contemporary Clinical Trials*, 105956.

2. Garcia, M. L., Crespo, N. C., **Behar, A. I.**, Talavera, G. A., Campbell, N., Shadron, L. M., & Elder, J. P. (2020). Examining Mexican-Heritage Mothers' Perceptions of Their Children's Weight: Comparison of Silhouette and Categorical Survey Methods. *Childhood Obesity*.
3. Reed, E., Salazar, M., Agah, N., **Behar, A.I.**, Silverman, J.G., Walsh-Buhi, E., Rusch, M.L.A., Raj, A. (2019). Experiencing sexual harassment by males and associated substance use & poor mental health outcomes among adolescent girls in the US. *SSM Population Health*.
4. Reed, E., Salazar, M., **Behar, A.I.**, Agah, N., Silverman, J.G., Minnis, A.M., Rusch, M.L.A., Raj, A. (2019). Cyber Sexual Harassment: Prevalence and association with substance use, poor mental health, and STI history among sexually active adolescent girls. *Journal of Adolescence*, 75, 53-62. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2019.07.005>
5. Crespo, N.C., **Behar, A.I.**, Juarez, J. and Elder, J.P. (2018). Multilevel Risk Factors Associated with Obesity in Older Latinos Ages 65 Years and Over. *Current Geriatrics Reports*, 7, 296-300. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13670-018-0260-2>
6. Crespo, N. C., Talavera, G. A., Campbell, N. R., Shadron, L. M., **Behar, A. I.**, Slymen, D., ... & Elder, J. P. (2018). A randomized controlled trial to prevent obesity among Latino paediatric patients. *Pediatric obesity*, 13(11), 697-704.
7. **Behar, A.I.**, Crespo, N. C., Garcia, M. L., Ayala, G. X., Campbell, N., Shadron, L. M., & Elder, J. P. (2018). Validation of a shortened version of the Children's Eating Behavior Questionnaire and associations with BMI in a clinical sample of Latino children. *Journal of nutrition education and behavior*, 50(4), 372-378.
8. **Behar A**, Mellen B, Talavera GA, Ayala GX, Crespo NC, Shadron LM, Campbell N, Elder JP (2016). Associations between sleep duration, television in the bedroom and child obesity. русский журнал профилактической медицины [Russkiy Zhurnal Profilakticheskoy Meditsiny/ *Russian Journal of Preventive Medicine*]. doi: [10.17116/profmed201619137-43](https://doi.org/10.17116/profmed201619137-43)
9. Pelto, D.J., Sadler, G.R., Njoku, O., Rodriguez, M.C., Villagra, C., Malcarne, V.L., Riley, N.E., **Behar, A.I.** and Jandorf, L. (2016). Adaptation of a Cancer Clinical Trials Education Program for African American and Latina/o Community Members. *Health Education & Behavior*, 43(4), pp.381-388.
10. Fox, R., Pan, T., Mills, S., **Behar, A.**, Malcarne, V., & Sadler, G. R. (2014, February). Beliefs About Cancer Risk Factors Among Mexican-Born and US-Born Hispanics of Mexican Descent. *Psycho-Oncology* (Vol. 23, pp. 78-79).
11. Sadler, G. R., Malcarne, V. L., Sobel, R. M., **Behar, A. I.**, Marin, A. M., McSorley, A. M., & Lopez, J. N. (2012). A new scale to measure facilitators of clinical trials participation. *Journal of Cancer Education*, 27(3 Suppl.), 220.

Manuscripts Under Review

1. Reed, E., **Behar, A.I.**, Salazar, M., Agah, N., Wong, A.L., Silverman, J.G., Rusch, M.L.A., Raj, A. (2021). *Witnessing sexual harassment of girls and associated substance use and poor mental health outcomes among adolescent girls*.

Scientific Presentations (Total = 33)

*Abstracts co-authored with mentored students

1. Reed, E., Salazar, M., **Behar, A.I.**, Agah, N., Silverman, J.G., Minnis, A.M., Rusch, M.L.A., Raj, A. (2020, April). *Cyber Sexual Harassment: Prevalence and association with substance use, poor mental health, and STI history among a sample of sexually active adolescent girls*. Paper presentation at the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence, Chicago, IL.
2. **Behar, A.I.**, Crespo, N.C., Quang, N., Ilejay, J., Lopez, N., Pickett, S., Tsou, M.H., Dunton, G., Elder, J.P. (2019, March). *Effects of playing Pokémon Go on physical activity: a pilot randomized controlled trial*. Poster presentation at the Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
3. Crespo, N.C., Vega-López, S., Szeszulski, J., Todd, M., Ray, F., **Behar, A.I.** (2019, March). *Effects of a family- and community-based intervention to promote cardiorespiratory fitness among underserved families*. Poster presentation at the Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

4. Garcia, M.L., Crespo, N.C., **Behar, A.I.**, Talavera, G.A., Campbell, N., Shadron, L.M., Elder, J.P. (2019, March). *Examining Latino Mothers' Perceptions of their Child's Weight: Comparison of Visual and Categorical Methods*. Poster presentation at the Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
5. *Spencer, K., Crespo, N.C., **Behar, A.I.**, Ilejay, J., Moreno, D., Thai, N.Q., Tsou, M.H., Lopez, N.V., Glass, N., Dunton, G.F., Elder, J.P. (2018, November). *Understanding young adult's experience playing Pokemon Go: A qualitative study*. Paper presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
6. Salazar, M., Silverman, J.G., **Behar, A.I.**, Rusch, M., Agah, N., Raj, A., Reed, E. (2018, November). *Witnessing sexual harassment and associated substance use and poor mental health outcomes among adolescent girls in Southeast San Diego*. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
7. Agah, N., Salazar, M., Silverman, J.G., **Behar, A.I.**, Rusch, M., Raj, A., Reed, E. (2018, November). *Experiencing sexual harassment by males and associated substance use & poor mental health outcomes among adolescent girls in the US*. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
8. **Behar, A.I.**, Natarajan, L., Reuter, M.S., Sears, D.S., Rock, C., Kerr, J. (2018, April). *Does increased physical activity explain cardiovascular benefits in a weight loss trial?* Poster presentation at UC San Diego's Public Health Research Day, San Diego, CA.
9. **Behar, A.I.**, Crespo, N.C., Ayala, G.X., Campbell, N., Shadron, L.M., Elder, J.P. (2018, March). *Provider-Patient Interactions in Latino Children's Pediatric Primary Care*. Paper presentation at SDSU's Student Research Symposium, San Diego, CA.
10. **Behar, A.I.**, Crespo, N.C., Garcia, M., Ayala, G.X., Campbell, N., Shadron, L.M., Elder, J.P. (2017, April). *Validation of a Shortened Version of the Children's Eating Behavior Questionnaire and Associations with BMI in a Clinical Sample of Latino Children*. Poster session presented at the Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
11. Reed, E., Salazar, M., Silverman, J., **Behar, A.I.**, Rusch, M., Agah, N., Raj, A. (2017, March). *Electronic sexual coercion: Prevalence and association with substance use, STI, and poor mental health outcomes among adolescent girls in the US*. Presented at National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence, San Francisco, CA.
12. Reed, E., Salazar, M., Silverman, J., **Behar, A.I.**, Rusch, M., Agah, N., Raj, A. (2017, March). *Experiencing sexual harassment by males and associated substance use & poor mental health outcomes among adolescent girls in the US*. Presented at National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence, San Francisco, CA.
13. Reed, E., Salazar, M., Silverman, J., **Behar, A.I.**, Rusch, M., Agah, N., Raj, A. (2017, March). *Witnessing sexual harassment and mistreatment of girls is widespread and associated with substance use and poor mental health outcomes among adolescent girls in Southeast San Diego*. Presented at National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence, San Francisco, CA.
14. Elder, J.P., Crespo, N.C., **Behar, A.I.**, Campbell, N.D., Shadron, L.M., Ayala, G.X., Slymen, D.J., Wilfley, D.E., Talavera, G.A. (2016, November). *Clinic-Based Childhood Obesity Prevention among Latino Families: The Luces de Cambio Study*. Poster session presented at The Obesity Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
15. **Behar, A.I.**, Campbell, N., Elder, J.P. (2015, March). *Child eating behaviors, parent feeding practices, and weight perceptions among low-income Latino families*. Poster session presented at the SDSU Student Research Symposium, San Diego, CA.
16. Pelto, D. J., Sadler, G. R., Njoku, O., Rodriguez, M. C., **Behar, A.I.**, Malcarne, V. L., & Jandorf, L. (2014, November). *Adaptation of a cancer clinical trials educational program for African Americans and Latinos*. [abstract]. In: Proceedings of the Sixth AACR Conference: The Science of Cancer Health Disparities; Dec 6–9, 2013; Atlanta, GA.

17. *Ramirez-Sanchez, N.A., Garden, S., Arrolado, M., Wali, J., **Behar, A.I.**, Fox, R.S., Mills, S.D., Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2014, October). *Decreasing barriers in monitoring patients: Translating the Consensus Sleep Diary into Spanish*. Poster session presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Clearwater, FL.
18. Sadler, G. R., Malcarne, V. L., Fox, R., **Behar, A. I.**, Talavera, C., & Ramirez-Sanchez, N. (2014, October). *A clinical trials education program for Hispanic Americans*. Paper presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Clearwater Beach, FL.
19. Pelto, D.J., Sadler, G.R., Njoku, O., Rodriguez, M.C., **Behar, A.I.**, Malcarne, V.L., Jandorf, L. (2013, December). *Adaptation of a Clinical Trials Education Program for African Americans and Latinos*. Poster session presented at the Sixth AARC Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved, Atlanta, GA.
20. **Behar, A.I.**, Sobel-Fox, R.M., Talavera, C.A., Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2013, September). *Fatalism and Cancer Screening Behaviors among Hispanics: Cultural Beliefs or Social Circumstances?* Poster session presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Seattle, WA.
21. Talavera, C.A., **Behar, A.I.**, Sobel-Fox, R.M., Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2013, September). *A Demographic Evaluation of Hispanics Who Use Alternative Medicine*. Poster session presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Seattle, WA.
22. *Mendoza, T.A., Sobel-Fox, R.M., **Behar, A.I.**, Ramirez-Sanchez, F.G., Ramirez-Sanchez, N.A., Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2013, September). *Colorectal Cancer Screening Behaviors among Hispanics*. Poster session presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Seattle, WA.
23. *Ramirez-Sanchez, N.A., Sobel-Fox, R.M., **Behar, A.I.**, Ramirez-Sanchez, F.G., Mendoza, T.A., Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2013, September). *Socio-demographic Correlates of Cancer Worry among Hispanic Americans*. Poster session presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Seattle, WA.
24. *Ramirez-Sanchez, F.G., Sobel-Fox, R.M., **Behar, A.I.**, Ramirez-Sanchez, N.A., Mendoza, T.A., Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2013, September). *Gender, education, income, and clinical trials knowledge among Hispanic Americans*. Poster session presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Seattle, WA.
25. **Behar, A.I.**, Sobel, R.M., Solórzano, M.T., Talavera, C.A., Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2013, March). *Breast Cancer Screening among Mexican American Women*. Poster session presented at the Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
26. Sobel, R.M., Champagne, B.R., Mills, S.D., **Behar, A.I.**, Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2013, March). *A Latent Profile Analysis of the Multidimensional Locus of Control Scales*. Paper presented at the Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
27. Sobel, R.M., Champagne, B.R., Mills, S.D., **Behar, A.I.**, Malcarne, V.L. and Sadler, G.R. (2013, March). *A Latent Profile Analysis of the Multidimensional Locus of Control Scales*. In *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* (Vol. 45, pp. S213-S213). 233 Spring St, New York, NY 10013 USA: Springer.
28. **Behar, A.I.**, Sobel, R.M., Banuelos, K., Villaseñor, V.N., Santiago, K., Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2012, September). *Development of a Culturally- and Linguistically-Appropriate Clinical Trials Education Program for English- and Spanish-Speaking Hispanic Americans*. Paper presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Ann Arbor, MI.
29. **Behar, A.I.**, Sobel, R.M., Solórzano, M.T., Riley, N., Banuelos, K., Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2011, September). *Considerations When Working with English- and Spanish-Speaking Hispanic Americans in Research Studies*. Poster session presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Buffalo, NY.
30. *Santiago, K., Sobel, R.M., **Behar, A.I.**, Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2011, September). *Does Religiosity Affect Knowledge About Cancer Clinical Trials Among Hispanic Americans?* Paper presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Buffalo, NY.

31. Sadler, G.R., Malcarne, V.L., Robel, R.M., **Behar, A.I.**, Marin, A.M., McSorley, A.M., Lopez, J.N. (2011, September). *A New Scale to Measure Facilitators of Clinical Trials Participation*. Paper presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Buffalo, NY.
32. *Villaseñor, V.N., Sobel, R.M., **Behar, A.I.**, Malcarne, V.L., Sadler, G.R. (2011, September). *Computer Familiarity, Cancer Beliefs, and Language Preference among Hispanic Americans*. Poster session presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Buffalo, NY.
33. *Banelos, K., Sobel, R.M., **Behar, A.I.**, Malcarne, V.L., Lopez, J.N., Sadler, G.R. (2011, September). *Cancer-Related Worry in Individuals that Screen for Cancer*. Poster session presented at the American Association for Cancer Education International Conference, Buffalo, NY.

GRANTS & CONTRACTS

Grants Completed

Co-Investigator, SDSU University Grants Program (UGP): Intramural Grant (Crespo, PI) 02/01/17-06/30/18
Title: *Effects of Pokémon GO on Physical Activity*

Co-Investigator, UCSD Clinical and Translational Research Institute Grant (Reed, PI) 04/01/16-03/31/17
Title: *Jardines Verdes: Evaluating an Economic Intervention to Improve Food Security*

Grants Submitted but Not Awarded

Evaluation Lead, American Diabetes Association: Pathway to Stop Diabetes Accelerator Award (Crespo, PI)
Title: *Reducing diabetes risk through fitness among underserved families*

Evaluation Lead, NIH/NINR: Community Partnerships to Advance Research PA #14-142 (Crespo, PI)
Title: *Community-Academic Partnership to Promote Cardiometabolic Health Among Families*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CERTIFICATIONS

SDSU Flexible Course Design Institute (CDI) - Winter Session, 2021

Two-week training to provide faculty with pedagogical strategies to teach in a hybrid (blending online and face-to-face) or fully online environment.

SDSU Center for Teaching & Learning, 2020

Certificate in Evidence-Based Teaching for Graduate Students.

The Lancet Workshop, UC San Diego, 2018

“*Learning from The Lancet: Lessons and future directions drawn from the 2012 and 2016 global series on physical activity and health*”.

Research Training Workshop, UC San Diego, 2018

One-day career development seminar and peer-mentoring workshop for doctoral students, post-doctoral students, and early career researchers. Led by senior researchers from UCSD, SDSU, and The Lancet Physical Activity Series core authors.

LEADERSHIP

Professional Service

Ad hoc reviewer, *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, 2021

Ad hoc reviewer, *Public Health Reports*, 2019

Ad hoc reviewer, *Obesity*, 2017

Ad hoc reviewer, *Health Education and Behavior*, 2015

Mentorship Activities

Undergraduate SDSU Student: Janeth Juarez-Padilla, 2016-2018

Student Project Title: Risk Factors for Secondhand Smoke Exposure among Latino Youth with Asthma