

Nosotros Team



David O Garcia, PhD - Director, Nosotros Comprometidos A Su Salud; Director, Community Health and Outreach, Center for Health Disparities Research; Assistant Director of Community Outreach & Engagement, The University of Arizona Cancer Center

ACSM Clinical Exercise Physiologist
Assistant Professor, Health Promotion Sciences
Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona, University of Arizona Health Sciences



Rosi Vogel – Senior Program Coordinator

Rosi graduated from Universidad Anáhuac in Mexico City from the College of Business Management and Economics. Rosi is a certified health coach and has 16 years of experience in business management and community outreach. Rosi oversees the team operations and supports them in fulfilling their mission of reducing health disparities faced by the Hispanic community in Southern Arizona, through community-engaged research collaborations, service, and education. Rosi enjoys hiking, music and movies.



Kristin Morrill – Doctoral Student

Kristin is a Doctoral Student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona (UA) in the Department of Nutritional Sciences. She obtained her Bachelors of Science degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Illinois in Champaign, IL. As a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Needs Fellow, Kristin works with Dr. David O. Garcia as her primary research advisor under his research program ““Nosotros Comprometidos a Su Salud – Committed to Your Health.”” She has served as the lead study coordinator for a beverage intervention for Hispanic adults (the VERDE study) and is currently working to complete her dissertation. Kristin’s dissertation harmonizes her interests in personalized nutrition and helping the local underserved Hispanic community with its focus on gathering the necessary preliminary data needed to develop a personalized, culturally-sensitive nutrigenetic lifestyle intervention to treat non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in Mexican-origin women.



Edgar Villavicencio – Graduate Research Assistant

Edgar is currently in his senior year at the University of Arizona. He currently works as an Undergraduate Research Assistant for the Nosotros team. He started getting familiar with Dr. Garcia's work after having him as a professor for one of his public health classes last year. Edgar started volunteering here and there with a couple of recruitment efforts for the VERDE study and a couple of translation work for some questionnaires for a different study.

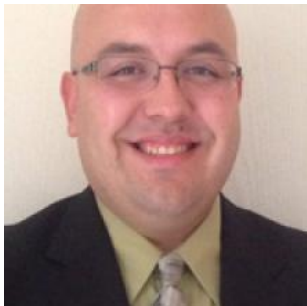
Last summer, he was able to do an internship at Nosotros where he obtained experience doing qualitative data work analysis. Such experience included transcription work of a couple of the ANIMO Spanish interviews and qualitative coding of the same interviews through the NVivo 11 software.



Lupita Ballesteros – Undergraduate Research Assistant

Lupita is currently in her senior year at the University of Arizona majoring in Physiology with a minor in Public Health. Her ultimate career goal is to attend medical school to become a physician specializing in pediatric emergency medicine. Guadalupe is currently an Undergraduate Research Assistant for Nosotros, fulfilling her interests in public health and the underserved Latino community.

She has also been a long-term volunteer at Clinica Amistad where she contributes to the care of low-income, uninsured individuals.



Julio Loya - Graduate Research Assistant

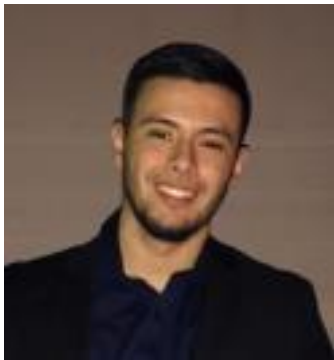
Julio is currently enrolled in the PhD in Nursing program at the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing. He is also the senior nurse manager for the Trauma Progressive Care Unit and the Abdominal Transplant/Surgical Oncology units at Banner University Medical Center – Tucson campus. He has been a nurse for over 13 years, and his area of focus is developing behavioral-based interventions to engage Hispanic adults with diabetes type 2 in sustaining physical activity. Julio became involved with Nosotros as part of a research practicum in the summer of 2016, and has remained involved on a volunteer basis since the summer of 2017



Benjamin Aceves - Graduate Research Assistant

Benjamin is a PhD student in Health Behavior Health Promotion at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. He received his undergraduate degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and his master's degrees in Public Health/ Latin American Studies from San Diego State University. He has over 10 years' experience working in public health ranging from community advocacy with County of San Diego to policy evaluation under Mexican federal government.

He is currently involved in multiple research studies focusing on chronic disease prevention and self-management among Latino communities in both Mexico and the US. In the future, he would like to continue researching innovative strategies to reducing chronic disease health disease among Latino both at home and abroad. He thoroughly enjoy eating, hiking in Southern Arizona, exploring healthy alternatives to traditional dishes, playing soccer without getting injured, traveling, the beach/ocean.



Ricardo Montejano - Undergraduate Research Assistant

Ricardo is a senior at the University of Arizona with a major in Public Health with a Pre-med emphasis and a minor in Spanish. He is a UCLA SMDEP scholar, and a Native American Research and Training Center (NARTC): American Indian Youth Wellness Camp ambassador. Ricardo has competed in the Princeton University MediHack competition, where he traveled to Princeton University and created an app called Social Service Informational Database (SSID).

Ricardo has also been a counselor for the University of Arizona's Medstart Health Careers Summer Program, where he mentored 41 senior level high school students that want to attend college and eventually have a career in the health field.

Ricardo is currently an Undergraduate Research Assistant for Nosotros, where he fulfils his interest in public health and his desire to aid the underserved low-income Latino community. His ultimate goal is to become a cardiothoracic surgeon, and with his knowledge of public health, hopefully help bridge the gap between low-income patients and achieving their optimal health. Ricardo also has a newly developed passion for bodybuilding and enjoys going to the gym, exploring new places to eat, and play with his dog Candy.



Hannah Zarnegin - Graduate Research Assistant

Hanna is a MPH student in Health Behavior Health Promotion at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. She received her undergraduate degree in Public Health with a minor in Spanish from Oregon State University. Hanna is currently a Graduate Research Assistant for Nosotros and an Intern for the Healthy 2 B Me summer camp program, working with underserved and refugee youth in Tucson. She is also a volunteer for the Open Airways for Schools program through the American Lung Association as an asthma educator. After Graduate school, Hanna hopes to continue to work in health education and outreach. During her free time, Hanna likes to go on long road trips, hiking, and exploring new places in Southern Arizona.



Jhenitza Raygoza - Graduate Research Assistant

Jhenitza Raygoza is a Native Tucsonan and a proud Sunnyside High School graduate. Jhenitza received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from The University of Arizona and is currently working towards her Master of Public Health degree in Health Behavior Health Promotion at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. During her time as an undergraduate student, she was involved in multiple health promotion and education efforts in the areas of mental health, minority health, and global health.

These opportunities catalyzed her passion for public health service to underserved and underrepresented communities. Jhenitza is continuing to share her passion for public health by serving as a Graduate Research Assistant to *Nosotros Comprometidos a Su Salud* (Committed to Your Health) program to advance health equity. When she is not studying, she is either enjoying time with friends and family, exercising at the Campus Recreation Center, or practicing her new hobby of yoga!



Brenda Picasso – Volunteer Research Assistant

Brenda graduated from the University of Arizona in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a minor in Spanish. She is currently doing the Certificate of Public Health online program through the University of Arizona with the future goal of obtaining a Masters of Public Health, with a focus on Health Promotions and Health Behaviors. Brenda is currently a volunteer with the Nosotros organization, where she assists the various projects being carried out by the organization.



Calli Townsend- Undergraduate Research Assistant

Calli is a senior at the University of Arizona, majoring in psychology and special education with an emphasis in rehabilitation. She has volunteered as a mentor for at risk youth in LifeSTEP as well as Elder rehab, a program for aging individuals with declining cognitive function. She is a science ambassador where she provides information and utilizes recruitment skills for incoming college of science students. Calli is currently an Undergraduate Research Assistant for Nosotros, where she is able to fulfill her interest in public health and her passion for outreach within the Latino community. Her goal is to go on to get her master's degree in public health so that she can continue serving communities through outreach and health education. In her free time, Calli enjoys drawing and playing with her cat, Ruffles.



Jessica Seline - Graduate Teaching Assistant

Jessica is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health in Health Behavior Health Promotion at the University of Arizona Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Anthropology and Spanish, with a minor in Global Health. Jessica is thrilled to be joining the team as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for Dr. David O. Garcia's HPS 189: Personal Health & Wellness course. In addition to her work with Dr. Garcia, Jessica is also a Peace Corps Coverdell Fellow with Clínica Amistad, where she works to implement health and wellness programs. Jessica is pleased to have both her work with Dr. Garcia and Clínica Amistad complement each other and further develop her passions of health and wellness, advancing health equity, and working with Latinx communities.



Sophia Yatsenko - Graduate Research Assistant

Sophia Yatsenko is a Graduate Research Assistant for the Nuestra Salud study and the LIVES study. She graduated from the University of Arizona with a BS in nutritional science. She is now an MPH student in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. She is currently working on her masters internship with Latina cancer survivors in attempt to increase healthy lifestyle behaviors through physical activity and nutrition, in an SMS based intervention. Sophia loves spending time with her dogs and doing anything outdoors.