**Jaqueline Contrera Avila**

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**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Population health researcher with experience in U.S. and Latin America population-based data in the topics of health disparities, Hispanic aging, tobacco control, cancer and cognition. Research interests include social determinants of older adult health, tobacco-related disparities among older adults, and cross-national comparisons of health and aging.

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT**

**Assistant Professor** 2022- Present

Department of Gerontology

McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, MA

**Postdoctoral Research Associate** 2020- 2022

Department of Behavioral and Social Science, School of Public Health

Brown University, Providence, RI

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D., Population Health Sciences** 2015-2020

Department of Preventive Medicine and Population Health

Sealy Center on Aging

University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

**B.S. in Nutrition** 2010-2015

University of Campinas, Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Under Review**

**Peer-reviewed publications**

1. **Avila JC**, Lee S, Osuoha E, Maglalang DD, Sokolovsky A, Ahluwalia J. Socioeconomic status across the life course and smoking cessation among older adult smokers in the U.S. Addictive Behaviors. 2022. Epub ahead of print.
2. Szapary C\*, **Avila JC**, Monnig M, Sokolovsky A, DeCost G, Ahluwalia JS. Patterns of Behavioral Adherence to CDC Covid-19 Mitigation Guidelines among Current, Former and Never Smokers. American Journal of Health Behavior. 2022. Accepted for publication.
3. **Avila JC**, Berg C, Robinson J, Ahluwalia JS. Short and Long-Term Cigarette and Tobacco Abstinence among Daily and Non-Daily Older Smokers. Nicotine Tob Res. 2022 May 3:ntac116. Epub ahead of print.
4. **Avila JC**, Sokolovsky A, Nollen N, Schmid C, Ahluwalia J. Race/ethnicity and the impact of cumulative adversities on smoking trajectories among current smokers in the U.S. Addictive Behaviors. 2022 Aug;131:107332. Epub 2022 Apr 9.
5. Maglalang DD, **Avila JC**, Ahluwalia JS, Murphy C, Alexander AC, Nollen N. Financial Strain and Educational Attainment on Smoking Abstinence of African Americans and Whites Who Smoke. Ethnicity & Disease. 2022. Accepted for publication.
6. Monnig MA, Treloar Padovano H, Sokolovsky A, DeCost G, Aston ER, Haass-Koffler CL, Szapary C, Moyo P, **Avila JC**, Tidey J, Monti PM, and Ahluwalia JS. Associations of Substance Use with Behavioral Adherence to CDC Guidelines for COVID-19 Mitigation. MIR Public Health Surveill. 2021 Nov 9;7(11):e29319
7. Downer B, **Avila JC**, Chen NW, Wong R. Imputation of cognitive variables in the Mexican Health and Aging Study. International Journal of Statistics and Geography, INEGI, Mexico. 2021. Accepted for publication.
8. Mejia-Arango S, **Avila JC**, Downer B, Garcia MA, Michaels-Obregon A, Saenz J, Samper-Ternent R, Wong R. Effect of demographic and health dynamics on cognitive status in Mexico between 2001 and 2015: Evidence from the Mexican Health and Aging Study. Geriatrics. 2021, 6, 63.
9. **Avila JC**, Samper-Ternent R, Wong R. Malnutrition among older Mexican adults in the Mexican Health and Aging Study. Nutrients. 2021, 13(5), 1615
10. Howrey B, **Avila JC**, Downer B, Wong R. Social engagement and cognitive function of older adults in Mexico and the United States: how universal is the health concordance in couples? The Journals of Gerontology: Series B. 2021; Volume 76, Issue Supplement\_1, Pages S41–S50
11. **Avila JC**, Mejia Arango S, Jupiter D, Downer B, Wong R. The effect of diabetes on the cognitive trajectory of older adults in Mexico and the U.S. The Journals of Gerontology: Series B. Epub 2020. 2021;76(4):e153-e164.
12. **Avila JC**, Jupiter D, Chavez-MacGregor M, de Oliveira C, Kaul S. High-cost hospitalizations among elderly cancer patients. Journal of Oncology Practice. 2019 May; 15(5):e447-e457
13. **Avila JC**, Kaul S, Wong R. Health care expenditures and utilization among older Mexican adults. Journal of Aging and Health. Epub 2018. 2020;32(5-6):269-277
14. Rontoyanni VG, **Avila JC+**, Kaul S, Wong R, Veeranki SP. Association between obesity and serum 25(OH)D concentrations in older Mexican adults. Nutrients, 2017 Jan 31; 9(2) (**+**shared first authorship)
15. **Avila JC**, Livingston JA, Rodrigues AM, Kirchhoff AC, Kuo YF, Kaul S. Disparities in survival among adolescent and young adult patients with sarcomas: analyses of the Texas cancer registry and SEER data. Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology, 2018 Dec;7(6):681-687
16. Kaul S, **Avila JC**, Jupiter D, Rodriguez AM, Kirchhoff AC, Kuo YF. Modifiable health-related factors (smoking, physical activity and body mass index) and health care use and costs among adult cancer survivors. J Cancer Res Clin Oncol, 2017 Dec;143(12):2469-2480
17. Kaul S, **Avila JC**, Mehta HB, Rodriguez AM, Kuo YF, Kirchhoff AC. Cost-related medication nonadherence among adolescent and young adult cancer survivors. Cancer, 2017 Jul 15;123(14):2726-2734
18. **Avila JC**, Kuo YF, Rodriguez AM, Wong R, Kaul S. Preventive services use among female survivors of adolescent and young adult cancer. Journal of cancer survivorship, 2017 Apr;11(2):167-174
19. Kaul S, **Avila JC**, Mutambudzi M, Russel H, Kirchhoff AC, Schwartz CL. Mental distress and health care use among survivors of adolescent and young adult cancer: a cross-sectional analysis of the National Health Interview Survey. Cancer, 2017 Mar 1;123(5):869-878
20. **Avila JC**, Luz VG, Assumpção Dd, Fisberg RM, Barros MB. Meat intake among adults: a population-based study in the city of Campinas, Brazil. A cross-sectional study. Sao Paulo Med. J, 2016 Mar,134(2):138-145

(\* Student author)

**GRANTS**

**Current**

1. Using Alternative Nicotine Delivery Systems (ANDS) to Reduce Harm for Low-SES Adult Smokers

 Agency: OVPR, Brown University

 Period: January 1, 2021- December 31, 2021

 Type: Research Seed Funds Category 1 (PI: J. Ahluwalia)

 Total Cost: $50,000

 Role: Co-PI

**Completed**

1. Diabetes and the risk of dementia among older adults in Mexico and the U.S.

 Agency: University of Texas Medical Branch Period: 09/2019-08/2020

 Type: Jeane B. Kempner Predoctoral Fellowship

 Total Cost: $50,000

 Role: Principal Investigator (Mentor: Rebeca Wong, PhD)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

1. Health and Physical Aspects of Aging (Graduate) Fall 2022

Department of Gerontology,

University of Massachusetts Boston

**Guest Lectures**

1. Alternative Nicotine Delivery Systems 07/26/2021 Tobacco, Disease and the Industry (Pre-college summer course)

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

1. Cross-National Comparisons of Population-based Studies of Aging 11/24/2020

Gerontology Workshop (graduate)

University of Campinas, Campinas, Brazil

1. Health Services Research with Publicly Available Datasets 03/06/2019

Health Policy and Management (graduate)

University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

1. Health Status and Health Care Status of Young Adults in the U.S. 02/06/2018

Healthy Policy (graduate)

Texas Medical Center Health Policy Institute, Houston, TX

1. The Mexican Healthcare System 01/01/2018

Health Policy and Management (graduate)

University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas

**Teaching Assistant**

1. Aging and Health (graduate) Fall 2019

University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

1. Social Determinants of Health (graduate) Spring 2018

University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

1. Nutritional Assessment (undergraduate) Fall 2013

University of Campinas, Limeira, Sao Paulo, Brazil

**Training and Supervision of Students**

1.Safi Ahmad, MPH Student 04/2021-08/2022

 Co-mentor of MPH Thesis, Brown University School of Public Health

1. Kayla Thomas, MPH Student 04/2021-08/2022

Co-mentor of MPH Thesis, Brown University School of Public Health

1. Sangah Lee, Undergraduate public health student 06/2021-08/2022

Co-mentor of Undergraduate Teaching and Research Awards and Senior Thesis, Brown University School of Public Health

1. Ezinwa Oshuoha, Undergraduate student at Cornell University 06/2021-08/2021

Co-mentor of Summer Leadership Research Alliance program, Brown University School of Public Health

1. Claire Szapary, Undergraduate public health student 10/2020-07/2021

Co-mentor of undergraduate thesis, Brown University School of Public Health

1. Martin Rodriguez, MD 11/2019-06/2020

 Visiting scholar, Sealy Center on Aging, University of Texas Medical Branch

1. Perla Romero, Masters student in Dietetics 01/2019-03/2019

 Co-mentor of research rotation, University of Texas Medical Branch

**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

**National Awards**

1. Student and Early Career Investigator Scholarship, 2021

American Association for Cancer Research on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities

1. Travel Award, Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco 2020
2. Delta Omega, Honorary Society in Public Health 2018
3. Third Place Award at Emerging Scholars Poster Session, 2018 International Conference of Aging in the Americas
4. Bristol Myers Squibb Scholar-in-Training Award, 2017

American Association for Cancer Research

1. Good Neighbor Scholarship, 2016

State of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (tuition for one year)

1. Undergraduate Brazil Science without Borders Scholarship, 2012

Institute of International Education and Brazilian Federal Government

1. Undergraduate Research Scholarship, 2011

Brazilian Council of Technological and Scientific Development

**Awards at the University of Texas Medical Branch**

1. Jane Welsh Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Research 2020
2. Bohdan Nechay Endowment 2020
3. Best Student Poster in Health Disparities, 23rd Annual Forum on Aging, UTMB 2019
4. Eleanor Dupree Otis Biostatistics Award 2018
5. Dennis William Bowman Scholarship in Biomedical Research ($1,100) 2018
6. Second Place at Translational Research to Lay Audience Competition, 2018
7. Institute of Translational Sciences, UTMB
8. University Federal Credit Union- GSBS Scholarship 2017
9. Laura Ray Scholarship 2017
10. Best Student Poster in Clinical Epidemiology, 21st Annual Forum on Aging, UTMB 2017
11. Best Student Poster, National Public Health Week Symposium, UTMB 2017
12. Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Associates Travel Award 2017
13. Best Student Poster in Health Disparities, 20th Annual Forum on Aging, UTMB 2016

**PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Oral presentations**

1. **Avila JC**, Lee S, Osuoha E, Maglalang DD, Sokolovsky A, Ahluwalia J. Socioeconomic Status across the Life Course and Smoking Cessation of Older Adult Smokers in The U.S. Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. March 15-18, 2022
2. **Avila JC**, Lee S, Osuoha E, Maglalang DD, Sokolovsky A, Ahluwalia J. Socioeconomic Status across the Life Course and Smoking Cessation of Older Adult Smokers in The U.S. COBRE Substance Use Symposium. Online. November 10-11, 2021
3. **Avila JC**, Samper-Ternent R, Wong R. Malnutrition among older Mexican adults in the Mexican Health and Aging Study. Mexican Health and Aging Study Workshop. Online. October 27-29, 2021
4. **Avila JC,** Nollen NL, Sokolovsky A, Lee J, Schmid C, Ahluwalia J. Race/ethnicity and the impact of cumulative adversities on smoking trajectories of current smokers in the U.S. Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Annual Meeting. Online. February 24-27, 2021
5. **Avila JC**, Mejia-Arango S, Downer B, Jupiter D, Wong R. The risk of dementia associated with diabetes among older adults in Mexico and the U.S. Mexican Health and Aging Study Workshop. Online. October 28-30, 2020
6. **Avila JC**, Mejia Arango S, Jupiter D, Downer B, Wong R. The effect of diabetes on dementia in two cohorts of middle aged and older Mexican adults separated by a decade of rapid changes. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Online. April 22-25th, 2020
7. **Avila JC**, Mejia Arango S, Jupiter D, Downer B, Wong R. The effect of diabetes on the cognitive trajectory of older adults in societies of different aging contexts- A Study of Mexico and the U.S. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas. April 10-13th, 2019
8. **Avila JC**, Jupiter D, Downer B, Mejia Arango S, Wong R. The moderating role of education in the relationship between chronic conditions and cognitive function among Mexican older adults. Mexican Health and Aging Study Workshop, Mexico City, Mexico. September 24-26th, 2018
9. **Avila JC**, Jupiter D, Chavez-MacGregor M, de Oliveira C, Kaul S. Prevalence of high-cost hospitalizations among elderly patients with cancer. Regional Competition of Translational Research to Lay Audience in 3 minutes, Galveston, TX. May 9th, 2018
10. **Avila JC**, Downer B, Mejia Arango S, Wong R. The moderating role of education in the relationship between chronic conditions and cognitive function among Mexican older adults. Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. April 26-28, 2018
11. **Avila JC**, Kaul S, Wong R. Healthcare expenditures and utilization among Mexican older adults: Analysis of the Mexican Health and Aging Study. International Health Economics Association, Boston, MA. July 7-11, 2017
12. **Avila JC**, Kaul S, Wong R. Healthcare expenditures and utilization among Mexican older adults: Analysis of the Mexican Health and Aging Study. International Conference on Aging in the Americas, San Antonio, TX. Sept 14-16, 2016

**Posters**

1. **Avila JC**, Berg C, Robinson J, Ahluwalia JS. Short and Long-Term Cigarette and Tobacco Abstinence among Daily and Non-Daily Older Smokers. Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. March 15-18, 2022
2. **Avila JC**, Lee S, Osuoha E, Maglalang DD, Sokolovsky A, Ahluwalia J.Socioeconomic status across the life course and smoking cessation among older adult smokers in the U.S.Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference. November 10-13, 2021. Online.
3. **Avila JC**, Samper-Ternent R, Wong R. The Association Between Diabetes and Dementia Risk among Older Mexicans in Mexico and Hispanics in the U.S. Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference. November 4-7, 2020. Online.
4. **Avila JC**, Milani S, Downer B, Wong R. The effect of diabetes on dementia in two cohorts of middle aged and older Mexican adults separated by a decade of rapid changes. 23rd Annual Forum on Aging Poster Session. October 17th, 2019. Galveston, TX
5. **Avila JC**, Jupiter D, Wong R. The effect of diabetes on the cognitive trajectory of older Mexican adults. Presented at:
* International Conference of Aging in the Americas. Sept 18-20th,2018. Tucson, AZ
* 22th Annual Forum on Aging Poster Session. October 18th, 2018. Galveston, TX
1. **Avila JC**, Jupiter D, Chavez-MacGregor M, de Oliveira C, Kaul S. High-Cost Inpatient Admissions among Elderly Patients with Cancer. 21th Annual Forum on Aging Poster Session. Oct 19th, 2017. Galveston, TX
2. Kaul S, **Avila JC**, Mehta HB, Rodriguez AM, Kuo YF, Kirchhoff AC. Cost-Related Medication Nonadherence among Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivors. Houston Medication Safety Symposium. April 28th, 2017. Houston, TX
3. **Avila JC**, Livingston JA, Rodrigues AM, Kirchhoff AC, Kuo YF, Kaul S. Disparities in Survival among Adolescent and Young Adult Patients with Sarcomas: Analyses of the Texas Cancer Registry and SEER Data. Presented at:
* American Association for Cancer Research. April 1-5, 2017. Washington, DC
* 8th Annual Texas Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Conference. March 3rd, 2018. Houston, TX
1. **Avila JC**, Kaul S, Wong R. Healthcare Expenditures and Utilization among Mexican Older Adults. 20th Annual Forum on Aging Poster Session. Oct 20th, 2016. Galveston, TX
2. **Avila JC**, Kuo YF, Rodriguez AM, Wong R, Kaul S. Preventive Services Use among Long-Term Female Survivors of Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer. American Public Health Association Meeting. Oct. 29th- Nov. 2nd, 2016. Denver, CO

**MEMBERSHIP IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES**

National Hispanic Science Network 2021- Present

Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco 2020-Present

Gerontological Society of America 2019-Present

Population Association of America 2018-Present

American Association for the Advancement of Science 2016-Present

American Public Health Association 2016-Present

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES**

**Editorial Board**

1. Research on Aging. 2022- Present

**Ad-hoc Peer Reviewer**

1. **Scientific Journals**: Journal of Aging and Health, BMJ Open, Addictive Behaviors, Advances in Life course Research, American Journal of Public Health, Demographic Research, Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology, Preventive Medicine Reports, Substance Use and Misuse
2. **National Conferences**: Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco and Gerontological Society of America

**Service to National Scientific Societies**

1. 2022 Program Committee Member on Health Equity Research Track, Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
2. Co-convener, Aging, Alcohol and Addiction Interest Group, Gerontological Society of America. 2020-Present