
CHARM's Newsletter: September Issue

From CHARM <charm@miami.edu>

Date Wed 9/2/2026 2:11 PM

To CHARM <charm@listserv.miami.edu>



CHARM

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 · 8 min read

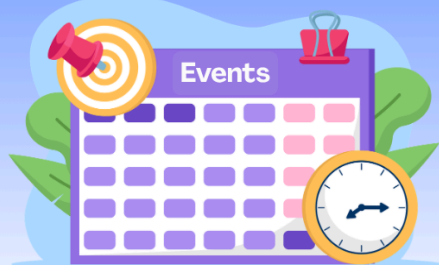
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CHARM's Newsletter: September Issue



September 15-October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month!

During **Hispanic Heritage Month**, we
celebrate Hispanic/Latino
communities and contributions.
Click [here](#) to learn more.



Upcoming Events

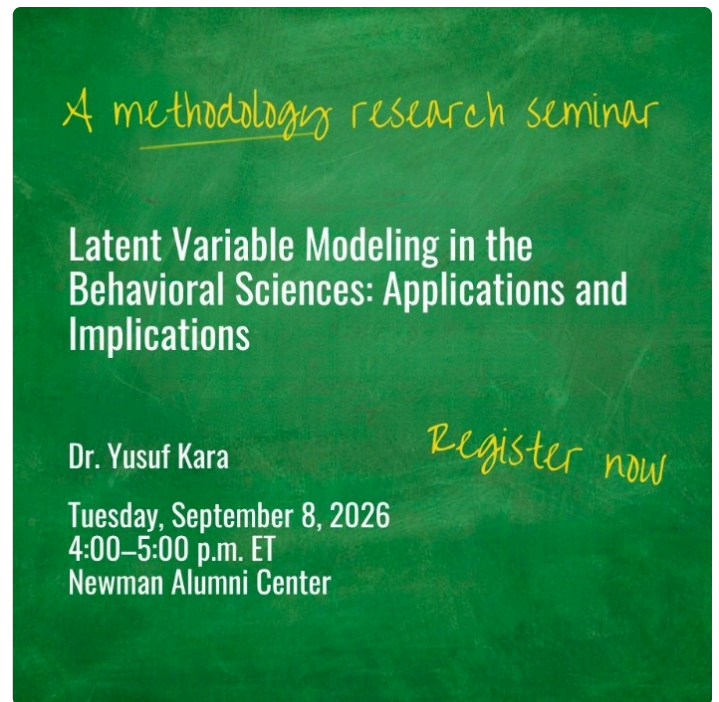
September 8, 2026 4-5pm

Latent Variable Modeling in the Behavioral Sciences: Applications and Implications

Newman Alumni Center

Dr. Yusuf Kara is an Assistant Professor of Research, Measurement, and Evaluation in the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Miami. His research centers on latent variable modeling, with particular emphasis on the development and applications of innovative data analytic techniques for educational and psychological measurement.

Click [here](#) to register.



A methodology research seminar

Latent Variable Modeling in the Behavioral Sciences: Applications and Implications

Dr. Yusuf Kara

Register now

Tuesday, September 8, 2026
4:00–5:00 p.m. ET
Newman Alumni Center

September 10th & 11th, 2026

Engage & Connect: Community Roundtable Series

Converge Miami | 1951 NW 7th Ave, Miami, FL 33136

You're warmly invited to **Engage & Connect: Community Roundtable Series**, a **2-day event** designed to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration between **community members, business organizations, healthcare practitioners, and researchers.**

Click [here](#) to RSVP.



 UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
CENTER for AIDS RESEARCH

Engage & Connect Community Roundtable Series

A 2-Day Event Bridging Research & Community Collaboration

Engage & Connect is a networking event focused on collaboration, idea sharing, and building stronger professional connections.



September 10–11, 2026
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Converge Miami

September 16, 2026 2pm

Research in Progress Meeting: Dr. Steven Safren and Dr. Allan Rodriguez

These meetings are a forum where researchers can solicit feedback and discuss research ideas, study design and implementation, results, and dissemination with fellows, clinicians, community implementers and partners, and senior HIV researchers and biostatisticians.

This presentation will be an overview of the CNICS project, for which Miami is a site. Clinic patients living with HIV complete patient reported outcomes at regular visits, and it is matched with medical information from patients' medical charts. This information is de-identified and shared with the overall CNICS database, and investigators are able to access it to answer bio-behavioral oriented research questions, conduct analyses, leverage the cohort for future studies, and propose externally funded projects using this cohort.

Click [here](#) to join.

September 21, 2026 1pm-2:15pm

CHERISH Methodology Seminar Series

CHERISH is launching a **Methodology Seminar Series** to discuss and work through challenges that arise from conducting health economic analysis of complex substance use data.

Led by CHERISH Methodology Core Co-director **Ali Jalali**, the inaugural webinar, "**Statistical Analysis of Cost-Effectiveness Data Collected Alongside Clinical Trials: Expectations, Realities, and Research Priorities**," will examine current approaches to the statistical analysis of economic data collected alongside clinical trials.

Click [here](#) to register.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Overview of the CNICS Cohort for CHARM Members: Potential Use, Application, and Example Projects

Wed, Sep 16, 2026 2:00 PM



Steven Safren, Ph.D.
Professor
Dept. of Psychology
University of Miami



Allan Rodriguez, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Medicine
Dept. of Infectious Diseases
University of Miami



CHERISH

Center for Health Economics of Treatment Interventions for Substance Use Disorder, HCV, and HIV

A methodology research seminar

Statistical Analysis of Cost-Effectiveness Data Collected Alongside Clinical Trials: Expectations, Realities, and Research Priorities

Monday, September 21, 2026 1:00–2:15 p.m. ET

Register now

September 25, 2026 12pm-1:30pm

Suicide Prevention Training QPR: Question, Persuade, and Refer

Join NAMI Miami-Dade for a FREE evidenced-based suicide prevention training. This session will teach audience members how to identify the warning signs that someone may be considering suicide, how to intervene and persuade them to get help, and refer them to appropriate resources. Learn how to reduce suicidal behavior and help save lives.

Click [here](#) to register.

September 28, 2026 11am-4pm

Workshop for Early Career Investigators in HIV

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of AIDS Research (OAR) and partners across HIV invite you to attend the **fifth annual Workshop for Early Career Investigators in HIV**. The workshop is design to encourage discussion, connection, and collaboration among ECIs, NIH staff, and partners across the HIV research community.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Suicide Prevention Training QPR: *Question, Persuade, and Refer*

Register Now!

Join NAMI Miami-Dade for a FREE evidenced-based suicide prevention training. This session will teach audience members how to identify the warning signs that someone may be considering suicide, how to intervene and persuade them to get help, and refer them to appropriate resources. Learn how to reduce suicidal behavior and help save lives.

Receive a certification with attendance.

Featured Certified QPR Trainer:

Lisa LeSueur

NAMI Miami-Dade Suicide Prevention Initiative Coordinator

"Sponsored by NAMI Miami-Dade, Thriving Mind South Florida, and the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families."



5TH ANNUAL

WORKSHOP FOR EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS IN HIV

Monday, September 28, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT

Virtual Zoom Event



National Institutes of Health
Office of AIDS Research

October 1-2, 2026

2nd Annual FIU Population Health Initiative Conference

Florida International University
MARC Building, 3rd Floor
Miami, Florida

The **Florida International University (FIU) Population Health Initiative** invites researchers, practitioners, students, community partners, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and innovators to submit abstracts for the **2nd Annual FIU Population Health Initiative Conference**, to be held at FIU's Modesto A. Maidique Campus on **October 1st & 2nd, 2026**.

Abstract submissions are **due by Friday, September 11, 2026**.

Click [here](#) to submit.



October 22, 2026

"The Last Gift" Documentary - Seminar and Screening

Lois Pope Life Center

Event at 11:30am. Pizza at 1pm.

UM's Department of Cells and Systems Biology and CHARM will be co-hosting a seminar and private screening of the Emmy Award-Winning Documentary, **"The Last Gift: Scientific Discovery at the End of Life"** with invited speaker **David (Davey) M. Smith, MD, MAS**.

This documentary sheds light on The Last Gift Study at UC San Diego; a tissue donation study aimed at understanding the impacts of HIV on the body through rapid-autopsy research.

Dr. Smith is the founding director and PI of the Last Gift program, which is an end-of-life translational research model designed to answer open research questions needed to cure HIV.



Click [here](#) to register.

October 27th & 28th, 2026

Florida HIV CPR Conference

Tampa, FL

The **Florida HIV CPR** conference seeks to bring together community members, providers, and researchers to network with colleagues and peers, learn about ongoing and current research initiatives throughout the state and create synergy amongst the attendees for potential future collaborative research projects.

Visit cprconference.org to learn more.



Featured Publications

Towards a Better Understanding of HIV Prevention Knowledge Among Latino MSM: A Latent Class Analysis Study

Jahn Jaramillo, Francisco Cardozo, Daniel H.A. Maya, Guillermo Prado, Steven A. Safren, Daniel J. Feaster, & Audrey Harkness

Objective

- **Identify** “clusters” of knowledge gaps among Latino men who have sex with men (LMSM)
- **Explore** whether these knowledge clusters differ across subgroups of LMSM
- **Evaluate** whether specific knowledge gaps related to HIV prevention behaviors may help inform educational interventions to promote HIV-prevention engagement among LMSM

Methods

- This is a **secondary data analysis** of a longitudinal cohort study called DÍMELO that sought to examine patterns of engagement in PrEP and behavioral health treatment services among LMSM.
- Subgroups of LMSM (N=290) were identified based on their patterns of knowledge related to HIV prevention by using **latent class analysis**.
- **Three-step logistic regression procedure** was used to examine differences in class composition by demographics.
- The relationship between class membership and HIV prevention behaviors using **Lanza’s method** to estimate the probability of class membership.

Results

- **3 latent classes were identified:**

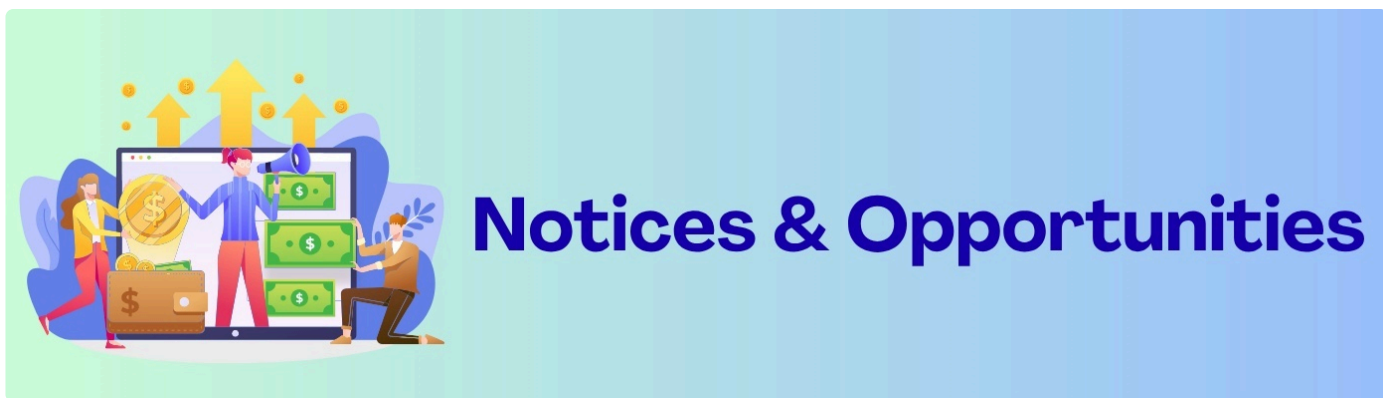
1 HIV/PrEP Experts **2** Moderate HIV/PrEP Knowledge **3** HIV Knowledge Only

- There was **no significant association** between **class membership** and **demographics** (education, income, race, nativity).
- **Class membership was associated with prevention behaviors:** HIV testing, PrEP use, and sexual behavior that can lead to HIV.

Conclusions

- This study identifies subgroups of LMSM with respect to the specific types of knowledge they do and do not have, which builds on prior research that traditionally only examines the absence or presence of PrEP/HIV knowledge.
- The findings demonstrate that the type of knowledge LMSM have and do not have is associated with their HIV-prevention behaviors.
- Findings may inform future programs that address knowledge gaps to support HIV-prevention uptake among LMSM.

Jaramillo, J., Cardozo, F., Maya, D.H.A. *et al.* Towards a Better Understanding of HIV Prevention Knowledge Among Latino MSM: A Latent Class Analysis Study. *AIDS Behav* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-026-05163-w>



Notices & Opportunities

- **Open Position's on Dr. Maria Alcaide's team:**
 - R100099271 Postdoctoral Associate - Division of Infectious Diseases: [Postdoctoral Associate - Division of Infectious Diseases - Logo](#)
 - The project is also onboarding a Project Manager 2: [Search for Jobs - Logo](#), as well as several RAs, and a research coordinator.
 - For more information on these positions, please contact **Dr. Maria Alcaide** (MAlcaide@med.miami.edu).
- **COMING SOON! 2026 Lauren F. Collins, Emerging Research Pilot (ERP) Award through the Study of Treatment and Reproductive Outcomes (STAR)**
 - The award supports early-stage investigators and is dedicated to the memory of **Lauren F. Collins**, an early career leader within STAR and a remarkable scientist, clinician, and colleague.
 - *Key Details:*
 - Applications Open: **September 1, 2026**
 - Intent to Apply (non-binding): September 15, 2026
 - Full Application Due: **October 15, 2026**
 - Award Notification: November 15, 2026
 - Project Start: January 1, 2027
 - Project Completion: August 31, 2027
 - Maximum Budget Up to \$50,000 direct costs
 - *Eligibility & Scope:*
 - Projects must be feasible within the project period and align with the STAR priority areas focusing on HIV prevention, treatment, and related health conditions for reproductive-age women.
 - Applicants must have a primary appointment with a STAR study site (University of Miami, Emory University, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, George Washington University, University of Alabama and Birmingham, University of Mississippi Medical Center, and Johns Hopkins University) and have at least one current STAR investigator serving as a mentor.
 - They must hold a current master's degree, doctoral degree, or MD (or equivalent) and should not be more than 10 years beyond graduation of their terminal degree or fellowship/training. Examples include a doctoral student or postdoctoral fellow, research associate/scientist, instructor/lecturer, assistant professor, or equivalent at their institution.
 - Individuals who currently serve or have previously served as Principal Investigator on an R01 equivalent research grant or comparable independent research award are not eligible.

- For questions about eligibility or to request STAR protocol documents, please email [Déjà L. Er](mailto:Deja.L.Er@emory.edu) (deja.l.er@emory.edu).
- **COMING SOON! Academy of Science, Engineering, & Medicine of Florida (ASEMFL) Annual Meeting**
 - The **ASEMFL Annual Meeting** will be held in Tampa, FL on **November 6-7, 2026**.
 - Posters are intended for trainees (graduate students and postdocs) in academia or early-stage researchers (within 5 years of their initial independent position) in industry, non-profit, or government positions.
 - Posters are a great opportunity for trainees and new researchers to network and receive input on specific projects in sciences, engineering, and/or medicine.
 - Click [here](#) for more information.
- **COMING SOON! The Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine's annual implementation science training short courses.**
 - **April 20-22, 2027 Implementation Science Academy (ISA):**
 - An immersive training experience designed for researchers and implementers seeking to build or strengthen their foundation in implementation science. Participants receive tailored feedback on research proposals and practice initiatives while engaging in interactive learning, project-based consultation, and community building.
 - **January 28-29, 2027 Implementation Science Academy+ (ISA+):**
 - A new advanced training opportunity designed for researchers and implementers with foundational implementation science knowledge who are ready to build, test, and refine solutions to complex real-world implementation challenges. This intensive program emphasizes advanced application of implementation science methods to accelerate impact in practice settings.
 - For both programs, please contact mss_education@northwestern.edu with questions and visit the [Northwestern Methodological Training Institutes webpage](#) for additional information. Both applications are due **January 8th, 2027**.



Highlighted Core Services

- **Peer Review:** CHARM organizes mock review meetings of grant proposals prior to NIH grant submissions. Each review consists of a one-hour Zoom meeting with up to three reviewers, who provide structured, constructive feedback to strengthen the proposal before submission. CHARM also provides Specific Aims Reviews for investigators who would like to receive feedback on an aims page under development to evaluate the key aspects of significance and innovation in early stages of the grant proposal process. Please contact **Yanexy Rivera** at ydc9@miami.edu for more information on dates.
- **Grant Ready with CHARM:** A comprehensive pre-submission support program designed to prepare investigators for NIH grant submission. The program includes Specific Aims review, Methods consultation as needed, and a full mock peer review. Editorial services are provided upon completion of the full program to ensure clarity, coherence, and compliance prior to submission. Please contact **Yanexy Rivera** at ydc9@miami.edu for questions or to participate in the program.
- **CLARO Measures Library:** The El Centro/CHARM measures library houses a multitude of measures translated into Spanish and other languages and can be used to identify and access measures for research studies.
- **Consultations:** Consultations can be requested via the **Research Navigation Portal** (see the [CHARM website](#) for more information).
 - The **Methods Core** supports researchers and community members via consultations regarding quantitative and/or qualitative research methods, designing a study, power analysis, data management, and more.
 - **EIS Core** leadership and co-investigators are available for 1-on-1 consultations to advise on Implementation Science Guidance, grant development, match-making with community stakeholders and implementers, finding a partner for specific implementation science work, and more.
 - The **MHD-CE Core** provides consultations on psychosocial assessment, community-engaged research methods, intervention development, IRB and human-subjects considerations, identifying community partners or stakeholders, engaging with the Community Advisory Board, recruitment support, and grant development related to mental health disparities or community engagement.
- **Implementer Consent-to-Contact Database:** One-time survey for South Florida implementers involved in implementing HIV and Mental Health services at various community organizations. Respondents answer questions about their needs, priorities, and interest in participating in implementation research.

To see more information on our services, please visit our website: charm.miami.edu



Need a Consultation?



Use the **CHARM Research Navigation Portal** to easily request consultations from our 5 Cores and take your research to the next level!

Visit the [Navigation Portal Page](#) on our website for more information.



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