Bienvenidos/Welcome!

Thank you for joining the University of Texas Health Science at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), the Mixed Methods International Research Association (MMIRA), and UTHSCSA’s Office of Nursing Research and Scholarship and the School of Nursing Center for Community-Based Health Promotion with Women and Children for our Patient Engagement in Biomedical and Health Services Research: A Pragmatic Mixed Methods Approach Conference. Funded in part by a PCORI engagement award, this MMIRA regional conference is focused on patient-centered and community-engaged health-related research.

As you know, a priority in health science research today is to develop methodologies to improve the quality and scientific power of data that can be more rapidly translated into health care practices that will address the most critical problem facing public health today, health disparities among populations, age groups, ethnicities, and cultures. Recognizing that patient participation is critical to the identification of health concerns and interventions, the use of a patient-engaged research approach is increasingly accepted as an essential element to the prevention of disease and the promotion of health particularly among marginalized populations.

Health disparities in South Texas are countless and continue to increase. The mission of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio is to make lives better throughout South Texas, and beyond, through excellence in education, research, health care and community engagement. The recognition of the centrality of patient participation to focus attention on appropriate concerns and collaboratively build relevant interventions can be incorporated into programs of science of all health care professionals. Mixed methods research enables health science investigators to view problems from multiple perspectives, including the perspectives of consumers of the health care system. This conference brings together diverse communities of patients/stakeholders, researchers, students, and health care practitioners with the aim of expanding knowledge on scientifically rigorous patient-centered outcomes research methods to produce improved and equitable health outcomes.

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