

Maria Aranda

Executive Director of the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute Associate Professor of Social Work Dept. of Adult Mental Health and Wellness at USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Los Angeles, CA, US

Research interests address interplay between chronic illness, social resources & psychological well-being in low-income minority populations

Biography

María P. Aranda is an associate professor at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and the executive director of the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging. She holds a joint appointment with the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and is a psychotherapist with over 30 years of experience providing mental health services to middle-aged and older adults and their families.

Dr. Aranda developed the first Spanish-language support group for families affected by Alzheimer's disease. She is well-known among community leaders for establishing model support programs such as the El Portal Latino Alzheimer's Project, Programa Esperanza, and Siempre Viva for individuals and families in East Los Angeles affected by depression and Alzheimer disease.

Her research specializations address the unique needs of middle age and older adults with co-occurring medical and psychiatric illnesses, and the caregiving families who provide them with love and care. She focuses on psychosocial intervention development, and evaluation of bilingual, evidence-based interventions on behalf of adults with chronic medical conditions and disabilities.

She has received funding for her research from NIA, NCI, PCORI, the Southern California-CTSI, The John A. Hartford Foundation/GSA, the National Institute of Rehabilitation and Research, the Alzheimer's Association/HRSA, the L.A. County Department of Mental Health, and the California Community Foundation.

Dr. Aranda has served on four consensus committees of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the geriatric workforce in mental health and substance use service sectors, family caregiving to older adults with functional limitations, financial capacity determination among social security beneficiaries, and functional assessment for adults with disabilities.

She is also an expert on the Caregiving Advisory Panel for AARP and a fellow of The Gerontological Society of America, the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging.

Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop

Industry Expertise

Research, Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Aging, Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, Caregiving, Family Caregiving, Mental Health, Behavioral Health, Diversity/Cross Cultural

Affiliations

Fellow, Gerontological Society of America, Member, American Society on Aging, Member, AARP, Member, Society for Social Work Research, Member, National Association of Social Workers, Member, Council on Social Work Education, Member, Association of Latino Social Work Educators, Member, American Association of Hispanic Psychiatrists, Director, Education and Engagement Core of the USC Alzheimer Disease Research Center (ADRC), Co-Director, Education Core, USC Alzheimer's Disease Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR)

Education

University of Southern California
PhD

University of Southern California
MPA

University of Southern California
MSW

California State University, Los Angeles
BSW

Accomplishments

Member, Medical and Scientific Advisory Council of Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
2018-present

Member, Board of Directors of St. Barnabas Senior Services
2017-present

Appointed Member, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Committee on Functional Assessment for Adults with Disabilities
2017-present

Appointed Member, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Committee on Family Caregiving for Older Adults
2015-2016

Appointed Member, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Committee to Evaluate the Social Security Administration's Capability Determination Process for Adult Beneficiaries
2015-2016

Leadership and Advocacy Award, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging
2013

Appointed Member, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Committee on Mental Health Workforce for Geriatric Populations
2011-12

Summer Biomarker Institute: Cells to Society (C2S): The Center on Social Disparities and Health at the Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University
2011

Social Worker Award, AltaMed Health Services Corp., Los Angeles, CA
2011

Chair and Member, 2010 Aging Achievement Award, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging for "The State of Aging and Health Among Latino Elders"
2010

CIBER Global Immersion Program in Social Work, University of Southern California
2010

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