
CHARM's Newsletter: April Issue

From CHARM <charm@miami.edu>

Date Thu 4/9/2026 10:02 AM

To CHARM <charm@listserv.miami.edu>

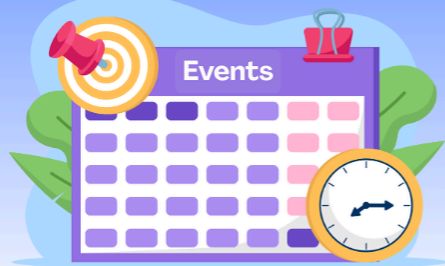
CHARM's Newsletter: April Issue

The graphic features the text "FABULOUSNESS CORNER" in a bold, dark red, sans-serif font. The text is centered between two stylized red curtains that are pulled back. Two spotlights, one on each side, are directed at the text, creating a bright yellow glow. The background is a light gray.

FABULOUSNESS CORNER

Jahn Jaramillo Successfully Defends His Dissertation!

Jahn Jaramillo (young Jahn pictured to the right) has successfully defended his doctoral dissertation and earned his Ph.D. in Prevention Science and Community Health. Mentored by Dr. Audrey Harkness, his work centers on advancing HIV prevention and behavioral health equity for Latino, LGBTQ+, and underserved communities. This milestone reflects not only his academic excellence, but also a deep commitment to advocacy, cultural values, and community impact. We congratulate Dr. Jaramillo on this remarkable achievement and look forward to the meaningful contributions he will continue to make in the field.



Upcoming Events

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

April 10th, 2026 8:30 am-3pm ET

2026 Implementer-Researcher Symposium

Converge Miami (1951 NW 7th Ave, Miami, FL)

Join us for the a 1-day training on implementation science research and practice. This event will present attendees with the opportunity to establish and strengthen relationships between implementers & researchers.

Please **scan the QR code** in the image or **click the link** below to apply.

<https://redcap.link/charmeissymposium2026>

**E. IMPLEMENTATION
SCIENCE CORE**
**2026 Implementer-
Researcher Symposium**
Friday, April 10th, 8:30 AM-3 PM
Converge Miami

SCAN ME

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY! Scan the QR code above.
For more information or questions, please contact EIS
Core Coordinator **Alex Porras** (axp2629@miami.edu)

Questions? Contact **Alex Porras**
(axp2629@miami.edu)

April 13, 2026 3-7pm ET

Research Institutes & Centers Showcase

Frost Institute for Chemistry and Molecular
Science (1201 Memorial Drive, Coral Gables, FL
33146)

Join us for an exciting showcase of
interdisciplinary research and innovation,
including a panel discussion and interactive
poster presentations.

Please **click this link** to RSVP:
<https://resinstitutesandcenters.rsvpify.com/>

May 6, 2026 2-3pm ET

Latinos United Against HIV

University of Miami Don Soffer Clinical Research
Center (1120 NW 14th St Suite 1080 Miami, FL
33136)

Latinos United Against HIV is a support group
intended to provide a safe, affirming space for
Latinos living with HIV to connect, share
experiences, and support one another. This group
is dedicated to uplifting the community by
training and developing future leaders,
advocates, and community workers. Through
webinars, roundtables, and other engagement
activities, participants build knowledge, skills,
and meaningful connections.

Please join this event to learn more about the
leader and creator of this initiative, Alberto Perez
Bermudez, and to learn more about the program
and its vision.

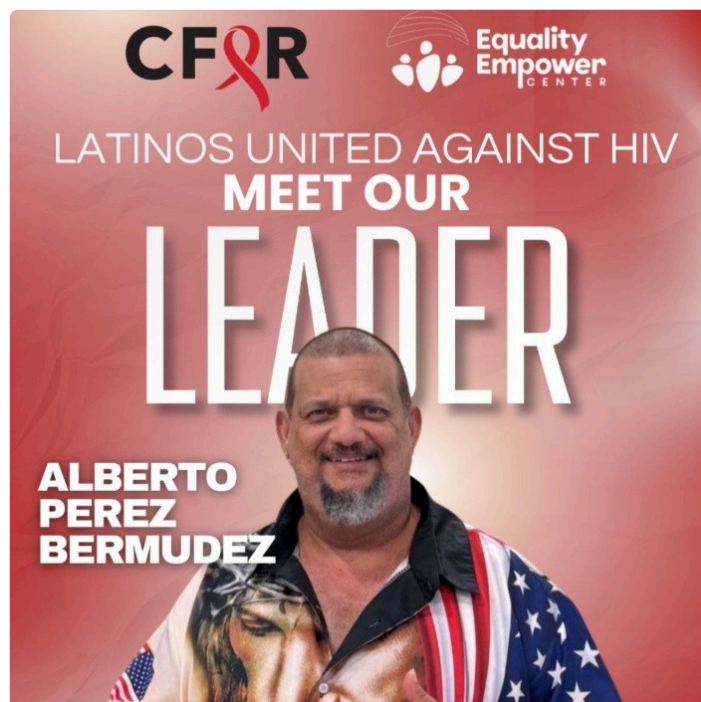
Questions? Call **Alberto Perez Bermudez (305)**
202-1557, William (786) 912- 2124 or **email:**
info@equalityempowercenter.org

Research Institutes & Centers Showcase

Dr. JT Macdonald Foundation Biomedical Nanotechnology Institute
The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies | Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy
Center for Global Black Studies | Center for HIV and Research in Mental Health | Climate Resilience Institute
Frost Institute for Chemistry & Molecular Science | Frost Institute for Data Science & Computing
Institute of the Mathematical Sciences of the Americas

SAVE THE DATE

**MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026
3:00 PM–7:00 PM**



May 18th-21st, 2026

2026 Weeklong Training Seminar

Frost Institute for Chemistry and Molecular
Science (1201 Memorial Dr, Coral Gables, FL)

Join national and local implementation science experts, UM researchers, and EIS core leadership for a week of IS training, in-person consultations & networking, implementer-researcher partnership building, and more!

Please **scan the QR code** in the image or **click the link** below to apply.

<https://redcap.link/charmeiswls2026>

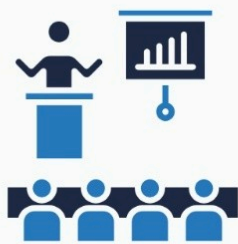
Questions? Contact **Alex Porras**
(axp2629@miami.edu)

E. IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE CORE

2026 Weeklong Training Seminar

In-Person Implementation Science Training
Monday-Thursday, May 18th-21st, 2026

Frost Institute Seminar Room (UM Gables Campus)



Applications now open! Scan the QR code to apply.

For more information or questions, please contact EIS
Core Coordinator **Alex Porras** (axp2629@miami.edu)



Featured Publications

Asynchronous Online Focus Groups: An Effective Approach to Engage Young Adult Women in Discussions on Mental Health Problems



Chloe A. DiCamillo, Renae D. Schmidt, Sophia T. Gonzalez,
Sara M. St. George, and Viviana E. Horigian

THE LIGHT STUDY

The **Learning Insights from Girls for Health (LIGHT)** study utilized an **asynchronous online focus groups (AOFG)**- digital-based focus groups where participants can join and interact from anywhere at any time- to assess mental health problems and potential solutions among 52 young women, 18–25 years old, across the United States.

OBJECTIVE

This study analyzed survey data and transcripts from the LIGHT study to assess participants' perceptions and satisfaction with the AOFG approach, and characterize participant engagement and interaction within the AOFGs.

METHODS

- The LIGHT study was conducted over the course of 3 days where participants responded to six open-ended prompts as well as respond to other participants in the group.
- After the 3 days, participants were compensated and asked to complete a post-study satisfaction survey regarding their experience with the AOFGs and study.
- Participants rated their satisfaction with the AOFGs from "Extremely dissatisfied" to "Extremely satisfied" and were asked two open ended questions regarding the strengths and limitations of online focus groups.
- Quantitative and qualitative data from the post-study satisfaction survey were reviewed and analyzed.
- Three co-authors independently reviewed responses to the open-ended survey questions and used a qualitative inductive approach to generate themes.

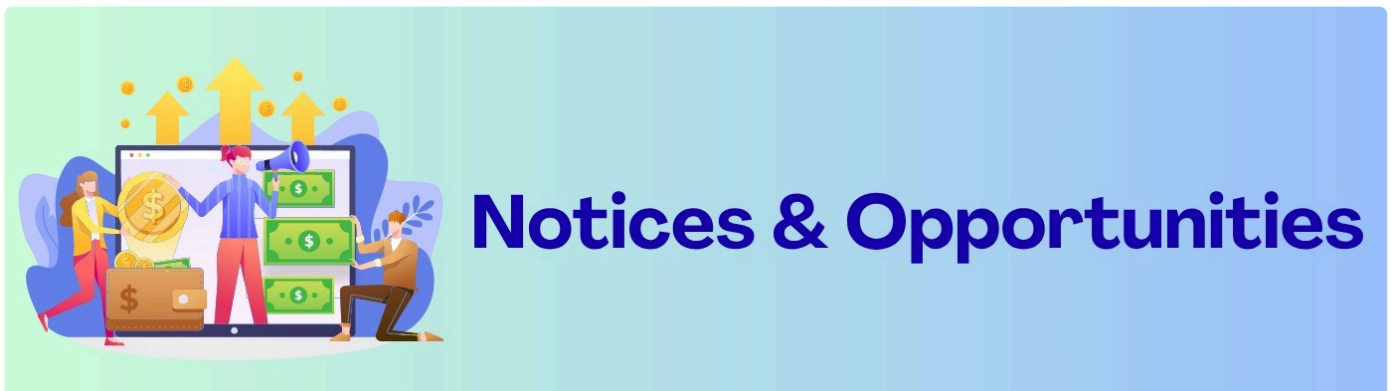
RESULTS

- **Over half (59.6%)** of participants were "**Extremely satisfied**" with the approach, and **34.6% were "Somewhat satisfied."**
- Participants highlighted strengths including **Confidentiality, Flexibility, Connection & Perspective sharing, and Equitable participation.**
- Participants highlights limitations including **Lack of nonverbal and paraverbal cues, Disjointedness, and User and technical error**
- **Two themes** generated to characterize participant engagement and interactions in the AOFGs included:
 - **(1) Engagement through storytelling elevates insights around mental health experiences**
 - **(2) Participant interactions included offering support in the form of advice, validation, and empathy.**

CONCLUSION

Results of this study indicate that AOFGs are a valuable platform for facilitating discussions about mental health in young women and are a practical and flexible approach to conducting qualitative research.

DiCamillo, C. A., Schmidt, R. D., Gonzalez, S. T., St. George, S. M., & Horigian, V. E. (2026). Asynchronous Online Focus Groups: An Effective Approach to Engage Young Adult Women in Discussions on Mental Health Problems. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 25.



- The **National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) HIV Research Program (HRP)** is informing you of an opportunity to request administrative supplements (to existing HIV research grants) that focus on implementation science research involving people who use drugs who are at risk for HIV or living with HIV.
 - [PA-26-001: Administrative Supplements to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements](#) (Parent Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional).
 - The NIDA-specific guidance and receipt dates as in here: [IC funding considerations](#).
- The **University of Miami Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)** has released a Request for LOIs for the newest cycle of their [Pilot Awards program](#).
 - A [virtual information session](#) is scheduled for April 14 at 5 p.m., for anyone interested in learning more or asking questions. If you have questions about the pilot awards program, please contact:
 - **Dalton Dietrich, Ph.D.**, Director, Miami CTSI Pilot Translational and Clinical Studies Program ddietrich@med.miami.edu
 - **Melanie Couch, MHA**, Director, Research Operations, Miami CTSI mweiss2@med.miami.edu
- The **University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Heersink School of Medicine (HSOM)** is launching a major strategic initiative in implementation science to build upon a robust extramural research portfolio across disease areas.
 - Recruitment is for tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-earning faculty at all ranks and includes academic appointment in one or more of 27 academic departments across the HSOM, many of which rank in the top 10 nationally in NIH funding for public institutions.
 - **Please click this link for more information:** <https://uab.peopleadmin.com/postings/26969>



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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