



December 7, 2010

## School of Social Work Assistant Professors Co-Present at GSA National Meeting

School of Social Work assistant professors Iraida Carrion and Nan Sook Park co-presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), November 19-23, 2010 in New Orleans, LA.

The paper, entitled "Patterns of Hospice Use Among Asians, African Americans, Hispanics and Whites in Central Florida" focused on understanding hospice use patterns among different racial and ethnic groups. Understanding these patterns is critical in providing culturally competent medical services. The purpose of the study behind the paper was to examine characteristics of individuals in hospice care by racial/ethnic groups and provide implications for practice. The study included a total of 22,936 patients served by a local hospice in Central Florida during a four-year period.



Nan Sook Park

Carrion has an extensive career as a clinician and educator. The overarching theme of her research focus is health disparities among Latinos/Hispanics. Her research areas intersect End of Life care (EOL), migrant oral health, and social work cultural competence practice. The goal of Carrion's research in EOL is to identify patterns in palliative care communication and health care decision-making. Since EOL issues affect the individuals, their caregivers, and also healthcare providers, her research addresses the implications of health care practices and interventions involving the three groups as well as complex systems of care delivery. Carrion was the recipient of the Career Catalyst Award in Cancer Disparity Research from the University of South Florida/Moffitt Cancer Center's Research Training and Education Core (RTEC), which is federally funded by the National Institutes of Health-National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities.



Iraida Carrion

Park's research interest is in the areas of psychosocial care in long-term care settings, roles of religiousness/spirituality in the lives of older adults, and issues around health disparities and service utilization of ethnic/racial minority older adults. In particular, she conducted research on social engagement among older residents in assisted living funded by the Hartford Geriatric Faculty Scholars program. Recently, she has been awarded the USF New Research grant, which will allow her to extend her previous study by examining social relationships of ethnic/racial minorities and implications for their well-being in Florida assisted living communities.

The GSA's Annual Scientific Meeting brings together more than 3,500 of the brightest minds in the field of aging. The meeting is the premier gathering of gerontologists from both the United States and around the world.