

Dr. Carmen Albizu-Garcia BIO

Dr. Carmen Albizu-García is a Professor in the Department of Health Services Evaluation at the Graduate School of Public Health University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus (UPR-GSPH), and researcher at the Center for Evaluative and Sociomedical Research at the same institution. Until recently, she coordinated the Evaluation and Evaluative Research of Health

Dr. Albizu-Garcia is committed to advance research that informs and improves health care services. Her overall research focus on the impact of health disparities in vulnerable populations and overall public health, including health services utilization among the medically indigent. Specifically, her research experience as principal investigator of NIH-funded grants has been primarily focused on criminal justice population with substance use disorders (SUD) and behavioral or physical comorbidities, including HIV and Hepatitis B and C, within a public health perspective. Her publication portfolio includes peer-review publications and book chapters related to HIV Risk and Prevention for Latinos in Jails and Prisons, service gaps for Puerto Ricans (PR) who inject drugs that contribute to continued HIV contagion compared to PR injectors in NYC, and examination of turnover in mental health and substance abuse provider networks within public sector managed behavioral care.

For the past decade, Dr. Albizu-Garcia has established collaborative relations with researchers from the United States, Europe and Latin America as well as with authorities in the Puerto Rico Department of Health, Department of Correction, funders, and stakeholders of health care organizations. Of note, she is member of the National Council of the NIH/National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA).

Dr. Carmen Albizu-Garcia's professional career demonstrates a strong commitment to building a cadre of successful researchers and a broad network of researchers in PR, USA, Europe, and Latin America. A long-standing proponent of mentoring, Dr. Albizu-Garcia places a high priority on training in mentoring, and an infrastructure that supports the work and the training of junior faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students interested in engaging in research addressing topics in problematic drug use within a collaborative and nurturing environment. For instance, she was the Principal Investigator of the NIH/National Institute of Drug Abuse Diversity-promoting Institution Drug Abuse Research Program, which aimed to create a research environment that promoted the development of junior faculty and students, allowing an integration between science and professional behavior.

Dr. Albizu-García obtained her MD in Boston University. During her career she has hold a few appointments as Dean and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, as well as Associate Dean for Research and Public Health Practice.