

Patricia is a fifth-year PhD candidate in the Clinical Psychology program of the Department of Psychology, working under the mentorship of Dr. Frank Penedo and specializing in Clinical Health Psychology. She is originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and graduated with a BS in Psychology from Boston College. Her research focuses on understanding the sociocultural, biobehavioral, and psychosocial mechanisms that contribute to health outcomes and disparities among marginalized groups, with a focus on Hispanic cancer survivors. Specifically, Patricia investigates how family and cultural factors influence health outcomes in Hispanic prostate cancer patients. Patricia is also committed to translating research findings into psychosocial interventions and is currently evaluating the efficacy of a culturally adapted cognitive-behavioral stress management intervention for Hispanic men who completed prostate cancer treatment. Her dissertation project is testing the effects of this intervention in reducing symptom burden and improving health-related quality of life, and whether sociocultural factors moderate these effects. Additionally, as a fellow at the University of Miami's Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas under the guidance of Dr. Felicia Knaul, she participates in *The Lancet* Commission on Cancer and Health Systems and the Global Access to Palliative Care and Pain Relief Research Hub. Her work involves cross-country analysis of cancer patients' healthcare journeys to identify opportunities for improving health systems and patient outcomes. As a bilingual clinician, she has provided evidence-based treatments for various presenting chronic medical conditions (e.g., cancer, insomnia, chronic pain) and psychological problems.