

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



November 8, 2010

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Study # 0920-09AU: Preventing HIV Risk Behaviors in Hispanic Adolescents

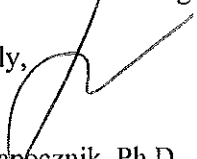
To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. Prado informed me that the Office of Management and Budget is requesting changes to some of the survey measures that he is planning to use for the above referenced study. The measures that are being proposed in the study, such as the Hispanic Stress Inventory, have all been found to be reliable and valid. The psychometric properties of these measures have been tested and reported on in multiple empirical studies, including some of Dr. Prado's prior studies with a similar lay population to that being proposed in the above referenced study.

As you may be aware, changing the wording of questions in psychometrically sound survey measures without proper validation studies threatens the internal validity of a research study (Neutens & Rubinson, 2002) and consequently diminishes the scientific integrity of the research. Such studies are often not publishable, and if publishable often not in high impact journals. The contributions of such studies to society are also significantly diminished. We would appreciate your assistance in ensuring the scientific integrity of the above referenced study by maintaining the language in the validated assessment measures for our study population. We are committed to maintaining excellence in our HIV prevention research that is such an important part of our nation's fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in our communities.

Thank you for attending to this important matter.

Sincerely,


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