Addressing Clinical Genetic Testing Disparities: Thinking Beyond Clinical Interventions

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Clinical genetic testing implementation in medical settings has grown exponentially with the advent of precision medicine and preventative initiatives for hereditary conditions. Yet, the benefactors of these genetic tests and related outcomes often remain primarily White, highly educated, wealthy, and female. Black, Latino, and Native American populations are less likely to test, often due to limited awareness, knowledge of the purpose, or privacy concerns around testing. Still, many within the Latino community express positive attitudes toward testing, and have supportive networks towards testing, but report low self-efficacy in being able to seek out testing. Many recent intervention efforts have focused on clinical-level barriers and facilitators.

Dr. Daniel Chavez-Yenter (he/him) is a health communication researcher, NHGRI F99/K00 Awardee, and Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, in the Division of Hematology-Oncology and the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy. Dr. Chavez-Yenter's current research is interested in how genetic testing, like cancer-specific genetic testing communicated to racial/ethnic minorities and in particular Latino populations. Dr. Chavez-Yenter is interested in how healthcare providers, medical institutions/organizations, and mass media communicate with Latino populations and how this impacts their motivations and intentions to utilize clinical genetic testing. Currently at Penn, Dr. Chavez-Yenter is working with the Penn Telegenetics Program to learn about the current clinical initiatives focused on reducing clinical genetic testing disparities. Dr. Chavez-Yenter holds a PhD in Communication from the University of Utah and MPH from the University of Michigan.

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Nesbitt Hall, Room 440 or Online:

https://drexel.zoom.us/j/89258295271

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