

2021 DOCTORAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT

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Primary Investigator

Mayrena Isamar Hernandez is a 4th year doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin (UW) Madison. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training from the University of Texas-Arlington in 2016. In 2018, she graduated from Kansas State University with her Master's in Public Health, while also working as a graduate assistant athletic trainer for the cross country and track and field men's and women's teams. Mayrena is currently a research assistant in the Wisconsin Injury in Sport Laboratory, and a University Health Services athletic trainer for their walk-in clinic at UW-Madison. Mayrena's current research interests revolve around on how the impact of low socioeconomic status plays into youth sport participation in relation to sport specialization.



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“SECONDARY ATHLETIC TRAINERS’ CLINICAL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS TOWARD LOW SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS STUDENT ATHLETES”

Funded by: GLATA Thomas Weidner Doctoral Research Endowment

There is considerable evidence that patient socioeconomic status (SES) has contributed to observed disparities in health care. Research has also demonstrated that a patient's SES can influence physician's clinical management decisions impacting their recommendations on the timing of advanced imaging, testing, and surgical intervention. Athletic trainers (ATs) are uniquely positioned health care professionals who have direct care with student athletes who are of low SES. However, there is a significant gap in knowledge on how student athletes' SES influences ATs' clinical management decisions. The purpose of this proposal is to: 1) To describe secondary ATs' perceptions of clinical management decisions toward their low SES student athletes and 2) To qualitatively investigate secondary ATs' clinical management decisions toward their low SES student athletes through the disablement model perspective. We hypothesize that 1) Secondary ATs working in schools of lower SES would perceive greater conflict with clinical management decisions regarding their low SES patients; and 2) ATs will describe challenges and/or strategies with providing a standard of care for their low SES patients. Anticipated Outcomes: This project will help elucidate the ATs' role in caring for their low SES patients in order to develop evidence-based strategies. Thanks to the support from the GLATA Thomas Weidner Doctoral Grant Award through the NATA Foundation this study will be able to pay participants for their valuable interviews and the transcription fees for the qualitative component.