



**Presenter:**

Hortensia Amaro, PhD.  
Distinguished University Professor and Senior Scholar on Community Health  
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**Biographical statement**

**Hortensia Amaro, Ph.D.,** is Distinguished University Professor and Senior Scholar on Community Health at the Wertheim College of Medicine and Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work at Florida International University. She previously served as an associate vice provost and first top-ranking Latina administrator at the University of Southern California where she was also Dean's Professor of public health and social work. Previous to that, she was Distinguished Professor and associate dean at the Northeastern University College of Health Sciences where she founded the Institute on Urban Health Research, and professor at the Boston University School of Public Health where she was the first to introduce courses on gender health disparities and on race/ethnicity health disparities in the early 90's.

Dr. Amaro's scholarship has dramatically advanced the understanding of gender and ethno-racial inequities in substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders treatment, HIV prevention and other urgent public health challenge. Her distinguished career has spanned scholarly research, translation of science to practice, top-level policy consultation and service on more than seven National Academies committees

and boards. She has authored more than 170 scholarly publications, many widely cited. She has made landmark contributions to improving behavioral health care in community-based organizations by launching addiction treatment programs that have helped thousands of families and informing practice in agencies around the world. For example, she has served as a consultant trainer on substance use disorder treatment to the US State Health Department in Costa Rica, Venezuela and Puerto Rico, and as a Visiting Professor at Ben Gurion University, Israel.

While at USC, Amaro developed the first comprehensive assessment of conditions of communities surrounding the USC University Park and Health Sciences campuses. The State of the Neighborhood Report released in April 2015, provided an important resource for USC administrators, faculty and students; and local elected officials, community agencies and community stakeholders interested in crafting research and place-based approaches to uplift community conditions.

Amaro has a long history of service to SAMHSA as a member of numerous committees including the SAMHSA National Advisory Council under two SAMHSA Directors, the committees on the development of Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIPS), and as a featured speaker at numerous SAMHSA conferences. In 2002 she received the SAMHSA CSAT National Award for Contributions to Women's Substance Abuse Treatment. Other service includes Vice-Chair of the Boston Public Health Commission as an appointee by the late Mayor Thomas Menino for 14 years. Her service to the community, profession and nation includes founding two Boston community-based organizations and two national professional organizations, service on 7 committees of the National Academy of Medicine as well as service on numerous local, state and national boards and committees.

In recognition of the impact of her scholarship, she was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2010. Dr. Amaro has received over 50 awards including two honorary doctoral degrees in humane letters by Simmons College in 1994 and the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology in 2012. Other major awards include the 2015 American Public Health Association's Sedgwick Memorial Medal for Public Health Service, the 2014 national Elizabeth Beckman Award for professors who inspire their students to change the world, the 2013 Ernest R. Hilgard Lifetime Achievement Award from the General Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association, the 1996 Scientific Publication Award of the National Association of Women in Psychology, the 1993 Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributors to Psychology in the Public Interest from the American Psychological Association, the 1991 Alfred L. Frechette Award from the Massachusetts Public Health Association, and the 1984 Kellogg Fellowship: Leadership Development for Minority Women in Mental Health.