



Aurora Torres
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Biographical Information

Aurora Torres is a first generation American, the child of migrant farm workers from Mexico who settled in Oklahoma to provide their children with a stable lifestyle and a sound education. She was drawn to physiological psychology for her Senior Honors thesis at OU and has been hooked on investigating relationships between psychology and physiology ever since. Her graduate program at OUHSC and post-doctoral training at UAB primarily involved biomedical research with animals. At UAH she has had the opportunity to shift gears and investigate the very complex interactions between psychological factors and the stress response. A pervasive interest in her research career has been hormones and behavior.

Dr. Torres is married to a fellow PhD (but in physics) and has three young children. She is a member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Hartselle, Alabama. She enjoys reading fantasy and science fiction, listening golden oldies and doing Seek-a-word puzzles

Educational Background

PhD (1987) Biological Psychology, University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, OKC, OK

MS (1985) Biological Psychology, University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, OKC, OK

BS (1982) High Honors in Psychology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Ok

Academic Experience

1996-present, Assistant Professor, tenure-track, Psychology, UAH, Huntsville, AL

1995-1996 (term appointment), Assistant Professor, Psychology, UAH, Huntsville, AL

1993-1995, Part-time Instructor, UAH, Huntsville, AL

1994, Part-time Instructor, Virginia College, Huntsville, AL

1991-1993, Research Assistant Professor, Psychology, UAB, Birmingham, AL
1988-1993, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Psychology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Professional Memberships

American Psychological Association Division 6, 1997
American Psychological Society, 1997
Sigma Xi, honor society for scientific research, 1998
Southeastern Psychological Association, 1998

Activities

Psi Chi Advisor, UAH chapter, national honor society in psychology, 1996 to present
Pre-Professionals Advisory Committee, pre-med, pre-dental, 1994 to present
Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Committee, 1998 to present
Alabama State Science Fair, Coordinator and judge for Social Sciences Division

Courses Taught at UAH

PY 101 General Psychology I
PY 102 General Psychology II
PY 302 Experimental Psychology
PY 316 Perception
PY 426 History & Systems in Psychology
PY/BYS 436 Biological Psychology
PY/BYS 505 Psychopharmacology
PY/BYS 536 Psychobiology of Stress & Illness
Graduate Seminars Brain & Behavior, Seminar in Hormones & Behavior

Area of Specialization

Biological Psychology/Psychophysiology/Behavioral Endocrinology

Research Interests

The Stress Response: Psychosocial factors that influence cardiovascular reactivity (divorce in family, racial identity, athletic self-concept); components of anger expression and their psychophysiological correlates.

Honors and Awards

Graduate & Professional Opportunities Fellow, OUHSC, 1982-1985
NIAAA Graduate Fellow, Alcohol Research Center (#5T32AA07222), OUHSC, 1986-1987
NIH Postdoctoral Fellow, Hypertension Research Program, UAB, 1988-1990
American Heart Association, Alabama Affiliate Research Fellow, UAB, 1990-1991
NHLBI Cardiovascular Minority Research Supplement (HL 42258), UAB, 1991-1993
Johnson & Johnson Medical Equipment Loan, 1995-1996
Project: Incidence of Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Diseases in College Students
UAH Faculty Research Minigrant, 1996-97
Project: The Role of Racial Identity in Mediating Cardiovascular Responses
UAH Faculty Research Minigrant Extension, 1997-1998
Project: The Role of Racial Identity in Mediating Cardiovascular Responses II
UAH Instructional Minigrant, 1997-1998, with Sandra Carpenter and Jim Bliss
Project: Proposal to Improve the Content and Structure of PY 102, General Psychology
UAH Student Government Association Outstanding Student Group Advisor, 1997-1998
UAH Instructional Minigrant, 1998-1999
Project: Enhancing Psychobiology Courses at UAH

Publications

Devenport LD, Torres A, Murray CG. Effects of aldosterone and deoxycorticosterone on food intake and body weight. *Behavioral Neuroscience*, 97:667-669, 1983.

Devenport LD, Torres A. Aldosterone-stimulated feeding and weight gain: Interactions with progesterone? *Physiology & Behavior*, 33:745-749, 1984.

Tucker DC, Torres A. Adrenal hormones interact with sympathetic innervation to modulate growth of embryonic heart in oculo. *Am J Physiol*, 262:H318-H325, 1992.

Torres A, Tucker DC. Effects of thyroid hormones on cardiac development in oculo. *Am J Physiol* 264:H244-H251, 1993.

Torres A, Tucker DC. Glucocorticoid stimulation interacts with sympathetic innervation to affect cardiac development in oculo. *Pediatr Res*, 38:479-484, 1995

Torres A, Belser WWB, Umeda K, Tucker DC. Indicators of delayed maturation of rat heart treated prenatally with dexamethasone. *Pediatr Res*, 42:139-144, 1997.

IN PREPARATION:

Torres, A, Evans, WD, Pathak, SK, Vancil, CD. Family Status Influences cardiovascular reactivity in college students. Submitted J of Health Psychology, 1999.

Torres, A, Bowens, L. Correlation between internalization theme of racial identity attitude survey-B and systolic blood pressure. Submitted Ethnicity & Disease, 1999.

NON-REFEREED:

Torres, A. The effect of female sex steroids on alcohol metabolizing liver enzymes in spayed female rats. Master's Thesis, OUHSC, 1985.

Torres, A. The role of estrogen and progesterone in modulating responses to ethanol in spayed female rats. Dissertation, OUHSC, 1987.

Torres, A. The role of racial identity in mediating cardiovascular responses. Proceedings for the UAH Young Faculty Research Symposium, October 1997.

Torres, A. The role of racial identity in mediating cardiovascular responses II. Proceedings for the UAH Young Faculty Research Symposium, October 1998

Evans, WD, Pathak, S, Collins, C, Kim, Y, Torres A. Family status influences pulse rate in college students. J of Research in Human Psychol, 5:20-24, 1998-99.

Allen, K, David J, Tanner L (Torres A, supervisor). Relations between anger expression and cardiovascular reactivity. J of Research in Human Psychol, 5:25-29, 1998-99.

Presentations

Torres A, Tucker DC. Growth of fetal heart in oculo is compromised by thyroid deficiency. Abstract. Intl Soc Developmental Psychobiol, 1989.

Torres A, Crawford LE, Dickinson KEJ, Tucker DC. Development of β -adrenergic receptors: Comparison of adult, neonatal, and fetal rat heart. Abstract. Neuroscience Abstr, 15:434, 1989.

Torres A, Tucker DC. Glucocorticoids interact with innervation to control growth of fetal hearts in oculo. Abstract. Circ, 82:III-492, 1990. Torres A, Holloway FA. Ethanol and female sex steroids: A profile of acetaldehyde levels, wheel running and sleep in spayed female rats. Abstract. Neuroscience Abstr, 16:756, 1990.

Torres A, Tucker DC. Thyroid hormones affect growth of unloaded fetal myocardium in oculo. Abstract. American Physiological Society, 1991.

Hunt RA, Torres A, Tucker DC. Chronic administration of angiotensin II and DuP753 increases growth of embryonic rat heart cultured in oculo. Abstract. Neuroscience Abstr, 17:1595, 1991.

Torres A, Tucker DC. Glucocorticoids inhibit growth of embryonic rat heart developing without hemodynamic load. Abstract. Endocrine Society Meeting Abstracts, p. 74, 1992.

Torres A, Umeda PK, Tucker DC. Prenatal dexamethasone treatment delays expression of -myosin heavy chain in male rats. NHLBI Cardiovascular Minority Research Supplement Awardee Session, American Heart Association Meeting, 1993.

Torres A, Vancil C, Evans D, Pathak S, Collins C, Robertson K, Kim Y. Family status influences cardiovascular reactivity. American Psychological Society, May 1997

Torres A. The role of racial identity in mediating cardiovascular responses. Proceedings for the UAH Young Faculty Research Symposium, October, 1997

Torres A, Carpenter S, Bliss J. Improving the content and structure of PY 102. UAH Instructional Mini-grant Symposium, February, 1998

Torres A, Ballard W, Christopher J. Positive correlations between internalization of racial identity and systolic blood pressure. Southern Soc Philosophy & Psych meeting, April, 1998

Torres, A. The role of racial identity in mediating cardiovascular responses II. Proceedings for the UAH Young Faculty Research Symposium, October, 1998

Torres, A. Racial Identity: The Heart of the Problem? UAH RELACS, Nov 1998

Torres A, Bowens L. Internalization and immersion themes of RIAS and cardiovascular responses Southeastern Psychological Association Meeting, 1999