

# Tamara Al Rawwad, Ph.D., MPH

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## Education and Training

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- Post-Doctoral Fellow** January 2019-June 2021  
College of Pharmacy  
Department of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)** August 2014-December 2018  
Graduate College of Social Work  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX  
**Dissertation:** *“HIV knowledge and testing behaviors among Middle Easterns and North Africans, 18-35, in the U.S”*  
Chair: Luis R. Torres, Ph.D.
- Master of Public Health (MPH)** February 2003-August 2005  
Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine  
School of Medicine, University of Jordan  
Amman, Jordan  
**Thesis:** *“Infant Mortality in Jordan, 1980-2004: Trends and Determinants”*  
Chair: Sami Khoury, M.D, Ph.D.
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)** September 1999-May 2003  
School of Nursing, University of Jordan  
Amman, Jordan

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## Employment

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- Assistant Professor** September 2024-Present  
German Jordanian University  
School of Applied Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of Social Work  
Amman, Jordan
- Assistant Professor** July 2021-August 2024  
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
School of Social Work  
Edinburg, TX
- Program Director** September 2021-August 2023  
Expansion of Interprofessional Substance Use Disorders  
Education  
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

School of Social Work  
Edinburg, TX

<b>Program Co-Director</b>	September 2020-2023
Expansion of Interprofessional Substance Use Disorders Education among Pharmacy and Medical students <b>(Prac-Ed-SUD-PM)</b> University of Houston College of Pharmacy Department of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy Houston, TX	
<b>Post-Doctoral Fellow</b>	January 2019-June 2021
Prescription Drug Misuse Education and Research (PREMIER) Center University of Houston College of Pharmacy Department of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy Houston, TX	
<b>Graduate Research Assistant</b>	September 2014-August 2018
Center for Drug & Social Policy Research University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Houston, TX	
<b>Teaching and Research Assistant</b>	May 2011-August 2012
Social Work Institute, University of Jordan Amman, Jordan	
<b>Full Time Faculty</b>	September 2005-May 2011
School of Nursing, University of Jordan Amman, Jordan	
<b>Clinical Nurse</b>	July 2003-February 2004
Al Israa Hospital Amman, Jordan	

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#### **Active Licensure and Certification**

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<b>Registered Nurse</b>	June 2003-Present
Jordanian Council of Nursing	

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#### **Grant related experience**

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##### **Funded grants:**

2023- present	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Trull's Foundation <i>The Prevention of Substance Use Among Youth in Rio Grande Valley: Cross-sector Collaboration Leveraging Community Change</i>
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\$5,000 dedicated to identifying patterns of substance use among youth in schools located in rural areas in Rio Grande Valley (RGV) with an emphasize on cannabis edibles such as gummies. We will also explore access to edibles, the level of youth awareness about what they are ingesting or concerns about these products being laced with other drugs such as fentanyl. Additionally, we will collaborate with teachers and other staff to explore their awareness of the dangers of such drugs, the incidents of drug overdose, and the referral process to services after an incident of overdose. (**Tamara Al Rawwad, PI**; John Gonzalez, Co-PI; Leticia Sosa, Co-PI)

- 2023-present University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
KNAPP CCF Foundation  
***Addressing Social Determinants of Health through Leveraged Social Work Strategies and Partnerships***  
\$160,000 dedicated to leveraging the existing, sustained, and active presence with community agency sites, to engage students in SDOH-focused direct client practice, through Field Practicum opportunities in educational, health, and social services agencies (Luis Torres, PI; **Tamara Al Rawwad, Co-Investigator and Evaluator**)
- 2022-present University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
Trellis Foundation  
***UTRGV Mental Health Frontline Project***  
**\$196,000** dedicated to providing training, education, to students and faculty to UTRGV and individuals in the community on mental health and suicide prevention, in addition to providing peer counseling by students (Chris Albert, PI; **Tamara Al Rawwad, Co-PI**)
- 2021-2023 University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
Internal Seed Grant  
***Role of Pharmacists in the Provision of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in Rio Grande Valley***  
**\$3,000** dedicated to examining the perceived role of pharmacists in the provision of MOUD and their attitudes towards integrating pharmacists into MOUD treatment programs (**Tamara Al Rawwad, PI**)
- 2021-2023 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration  
***Expansion of Interprofessional Education on Substance Use Disorders***  
**\$60,000** dedicated to expanding substance use disorders education among health professions students and practitioners (**Tamara Al Rawwad, PI**)
- 2020-2023 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration  
***Expansion of Interprofessional Substance Use Disorders Education among Pharmacy and Medical students (Prac-Ed-SUD-PM)***  
**\$200,000** over two years dedicated to expanding the integration of substance use disorders (SUDs) education into the standard curriculum of Pharmacy and Medical education programs (**Tamara Al Rawwad: Co-PI**; Austin De La Cruz: Co-PI)

- 2019-2021 Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention  
*Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) Grant to Texas Health and Human Services, Texas Improved Distribution and Evaluation of Single Use Disposal Pouches (TIDES)*  
**\$3.4 million** dedicated to a rigorous evaluation  
(Douglas Thornton: PI; **Tamara Al Rawwad: Post-Doctoral Fellow**)
- 2017-2018 Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance  
*Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Grant to AVANCE—Houston*  
**\$1.5 million** dedicated to a rigorous evaluation with random assignment  
(Luis Torres: PI; **Tamara Al Rawwad: PhD student/Evaluation team member**)
- 2015-2017 WK Kellogg Foundation  
*Latino Best Start: support breastfeeding and overall wellness in the Latino community grant to Urban Strategies, Inc.*  
(Lorena Gonzalez: PI; **Tamara Al Rawwad: Data analysis Consultant**)
- 2014-2017 Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention  
*SMART Cougars: Substance Use, Mental Health, and HIV/AIDS Risk Assessment and Testing—Plus*  
**\$900,000.00** dedicated to the expansion of SMART Cougars  
(Luis Torres: PI; **Tamara Al Rawwad: PhD student/Data analyst**)
- 2014-2016 National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse  
*Effectiveness of Recovery High Schools as Continuing Care (5R01DA029785-03)*  
**\$356,205.00** dedicated to a rigorous evaluation  
(Andrew Finch, Vanderbilt University, PI; **Tamara Al Rawwad, PhD student**)
- 2014-2017 Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention  
*SMART Cougars: Substance Use, Mental Health, and HIV/AIDS Risk Assessment and Testing*  
**\$894,595.00**  
(L. Torres: PI, **Tamara Al Rawwad: PhD student/Data analyst**)

**Other grant experience:**

- 2021 The New York Life Foundation  
*RGV-HOST (Resilience, Growth, and Value: Helping Our Students Thrive)*  
(PI: Enedina Enriquez, **Tamara Al Rawwad: Evaluator**)  
**\$150,000 over two years**
- 2021 Proposed a grant to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) entitled “*Access to Minority Mental Health Services Rural (AMMR)*” that was

intended to train high quality mental health providers who are culturally proficient in working with predominantly Hispanics in the low-income, medically underserved border communities of the Rio Grande Valley (Bruce Reed: PI, **Tamara Al Rawwad: Co-PI**). Scored but not funded, \$500,000 over two years.

- 2021 Proposed a grant to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) that intended to improve the capacity of the public service sectors, such as non-profit organizations, to train their members to raise awareness of mental health issues and to respond to individuals with severe mental illness/severe emotional disturbances. It also aims to increase mental health awareness among members of two subpopulations, African American and immigrant, and to improve their abilities to assist anyone in distress and to connect with resources in their communities (Bill Elder: PI, **Tamara Al Rawwad: Co-PI**). Scored (80/100) but not funded, \$ 625, 000 over five years.
- 2019 Proposed a grant to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) that intended to increase early identification and engagement in HIV primary care for ethnic and racial minority individuals with substance use disorders (SUD) and/or co-occurring substance use and mental disorders (COD) who are at risk for HIV, or are HIV positive and receiving HIV services/treatment, and their drug-using and sexual partners (**Tamara Al Rawwad: Co-PI**, Douglas Thornton: Co-PI). Scored (72/100) but not funded, \$2.5 million over five years.

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### Peer-reviewed Manuscripts

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1. **Al Rawwad, T.**, Tata, V., Wanat, M. A., Campbell, D., & Thornton, D. (2023). Evaluating the feasibility of implementing a prescription drug misuse prevention intervention in the community: a mixed methods study. *BMC Public Health*, 23(1), 1-12.
2. Bakos-Block, C. R., **Al Rawwad, T.**, Cardenas-Turanzas, M., & Champagne-Langabeer, T. (2022). Contact based intervention reduces stigma among pharmacy students. *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*, 14(12), 1471-1477.
3. **Al Rawwad, T.**, Schrader, P., Brooks, A., Duong, L., Thornton, D. (2021). Do Nursing and Pharmacy Students Practice What They Preach? A cross-sectional study on the knowledge, attitudes, and practices on safe drug storage. *Nurse Education Today*, 107, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2021.105143>.
4. Rebecca L. Mauldin, **Tamara Al Rawwad**, Muhammad Amith, Lisa M. Kuhns, John A. Schneider & Kayo Fujimoto (2021) Community-clinic linkages for promoting HIV prevention: organizational networks for PrEP client referrals and collaborations, *AIDS Care*, DOI: 10.1080/09540121.2021.1936445
5. **Al Rawwad, T.**, Washburn, M., Torres, L. R., & Sampson, M. (2020). HIV Knowledge of Middle Eastern and North Africans 18-35 Residing in the US: A Cross Sectional Study. *Social work in public health*, 1-16.
6. Sampson, M., Derige, D.N., **Al Rawwad, T.**, Gonzalez, G.G., Hojat-Gallin, N. & Torres, L.R. (2020). A Latino family approach: The design and effectiveness of a community informed breastfeeding curriculum. *Journal of Health Science & Education*. 4(2): 1-6

7. Thornton, J. D., Anyanwu, P., Tata, V., **Al Rawwad, T.**, & Fleming, M. L. (2020). Differences between pharmacists' perception of counseling and practice in the era of prescription drug misuse. *Pharmacy Practice (Granada)*, 18(1).
8. Ali, S., **Al Rawwad, T.**, Leal, R. M., Wilson, M. I., Mancillas, A., Keo-Meier, B., & Torres, L. R. (2017). SMART Cougars: Development and Feasibility of a Campus-based HIV Prevention Intervention. *Journal of health care for the poor and underserved*, 28(2), 81-99.

#### **In press:**

1. Aldirawi, Ali; **Al Rawwad, Tamara**; Al-Qudimat, Ahmad; YAN, Jin; Brooks, Andrea; Eldeirawi, Kamal. (2024). The Lived Experiences of Mother's Caring for Children with Uncontrolled Asthma: A Qualitative Study. *Open Sage Medicine*

#### **Under review:**

1. Aldirawi, Ali., Al-Qudimat, Ahmad., **Al Rawwad, Tamara.**, Alhalaiqa., Jin, Yan., Abuzerr, Samer. (2024). Effect of Asthma Control on Health-Related Quality of Life in Pediatric Patients with Asthma in Gaza. *The Journal of Nursing Research*.
2. **Al Rawwad, T.**, Washburn, Sampson, M., M., Torres, L. R. (2024). Divulging the Unknown: HIV testing behaviors among Middle Eastern and North Africans, ages 18-35, in the U.S. *Journal of Community Health*
3. Anyanwu, P., **Al Rawwad, T.**, Essien, E., Johnson, M., Gilbert, L., Ogunsanya, M., Obimah, K., Thornton, D. (2024). The Burden of Cost to Patients with Opioid Use Disorder Treated with Medication Assisted Treatment: A Scoping Review. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports*

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#### **Ongoing research projects**

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1. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Programs in Rio Grande Valley: Needs and opportunities: **Data Collection**
2. Successful implementation of prescription drug misuse prevention intervention: Cross-case Analysis: **Data Analysis**
3. The HIV knowledge Questionnaire (HIV\_K\_Q45): Evaluation of self-administered questionnaire in a Middle Eastern and North African Sample: **Results**

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#### **Presentations**

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**March 2023:** *We Are the Medication Experts: Integrating Pharmacists into Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Programs: Pharmacists' Perspective*  
 American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting & Exposition  
 Advancing in the Face of Adversity, Phoenix, AZ

**November 2022:** *The Development and Implementation of a Pharmacy-Led Comprehensive Curriculum on Substance Use Disorders*  
 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo | 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:  
 Leading the Path Toward Equity, Boston, MA

**September 2022:** *The Role of Community Pharmacists in the provision of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Rio Grande Valley*  
 International Conference on Health Disparities: Treatment and Recovery from Opioid and Alcohol Use Disorders and Related Comorbidities, Mission, TX.  
*Podium Presentation*

- June 2022:** *Community-Clinic Linkages for Promoting HIV Prevention: Organizational Networks for PrEP Client Referrals and Collaborations*  
Society for Prevention Research 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Seattle WA.  
*Podium Presentation*
- July 2021:** *Do Nursing and Pharmacy Students Practice What They Preach? A cross-sectional study on the knowledge, attitudes, and practices on safe drug storage*  
Sigma's 32nd International Nursing Research VIRTUAL Congress  
*Virtual presentation*
- March 2021:** *Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices on Safe Drug Storage and Disposal Among PharmD Students*  
American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting and Expo  
*Virtual presentation*
- December 2020:** *Feasibility of community prevention organizations in promoting prescription medication disposal*  
13th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation  
Optimizing implementation strategies for substance use prevention interventions  
*Virtual presentation*
- October 2020:** *HIV knowledge among Middle Eastern and North African women: They don't know what they don't know!*  
APHA 2020 Annual Meeting & Expo,  
Creating the Healthiest Nation: Preventing Violence  
*Virtual presentation*
- November 2019:** *Divulging the Unknown: HIV testing behaviors among Middle Eastern and North Africans, ages 18-35, in the U.S*  
APHA 2019 Annual Meeting & Expo,  
Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health, Philadelphia, PA,  
*Podium presentation*
- November 2019:** *HIV knowledge among Middle Eastern and North Africans in the U.S*  
APHA 2019 Annual Meeting & Expo,  
Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health, Philadelphia, PA,  
*Poster presentation*
- November 2019:** *Pharmacists' attitudes towards counseling when suspecting opioid misuse*  
APHA 2019 Annual Meeting & Expo,  
Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health, Philadelphia, PA,  
*Podium presentation*
- January 2017:** *Latino Best Start Curriculum: Development and Implementation of Community Based Programs*  
*Supporting Breastfeeding in the Latino Community*  
The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR),  
Ensure Healthy Development for all Youth, New Orleans, LA,

*Podium presentation*

**November 2016:** *Working Together: Lessons learned from SMART Cougars, a collaborative sexual health program for young adults*

APHA 2016 Annual Meeting & Expo,

Creating the Healthiest Nation: Ensuring the Right to Health, Denver, CO,

*Podium presentation*

**October 2016:** *Latino Best Start: Health Care Provides role on Breastfeeding*

APHA 2016 Annual Meeting & Expo,

Creating the Healthiest Nation: Ensuring the Right to Health, Denver, CO,

*Poster presentation*

**October 2016:** *Latino Best Start: Acculturation and Breastfeeding*

APHA 2016 Annual Meeting & Expo,

Creating the Healthiest Nation: Ensuring the Right to Health, Denver, CO,

*Poster presentation*

**June 2016:** *Latino Best Start: Breastfeeding curriculum development*

Pathways to Health Equity: Leveling the Playing Field, Manitoba, Canada,

*Podium presentation*

**March 2016:** *Latino Best Start: what does data tell us?*

First Food Forum: Achieving Health Equity in Every Community, Washington D.C.,

*Podium presentation*

**October 2015:** *SMART Cougars: Reducing the Stigma of Mental Health Issues, Substance Use, and HIV/AIDS*

Second Annual Graduate Research and Scholarship Projects Day (GRaSP), Houston, TX,

*Poster presentation*

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**Teaching Experience- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (Social Work Graduate students)**

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**Course Development and /or Revision**

Summer 2024

***Social Work Practice with Diverse Population*** (SOCW-6315)

Revised Course, 3 credit hours

Class size: 16 social work master students

Spring 2023

***Statistical Methods*** (SOCW-3375-02)

Revised course, 3 credit hours

Class size: 18 social work master students

Fall 2023

***Advanced Macro Assessment*** (SOCW6336.90L)

Revised course, 3 credit hours

Class size: 8 social work students

- Spring 2022                      ***Accountability and Program Evaluation*** (SOCW-6380)  
Revised course, 3 credit hours  
Class size: 8 social work students
- Fall 2021                         ***Advanced Practice with Communities*** (SOCW 6341)  
Revised course, 3 credit hours  
Class size: 8 social work students

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**Teaching Experience- University of Houston (Graduate students)**

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- Fall 2020                      Guest Lecture for 12 PhD in Social Work students at Tulane University Course:  
**SOWK-9206 *APP Research Ethics***  
(Topic: Introduction to Statistical Analysis)
- Spring 2016                  Teaching Intern | UH Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, TX  
Developed homework and test items for Master's in Social Work students  
**Hybrid Course: SOCW 7324: *Clinical Applications of the DSM in Social Work***  
**Supervisor: Danielle Parrish, PhD, LMSW**
- Fall 2016                      Teaching Intern | UH Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, TX  
Developed homework and test items for Master's in Social Work students  
**Hybrid Course: SOCW 6305: *Research and Knowledge Building in Social Work Practice***  
**Supervisor: Micki Washburn, PhD, LMSW**
- Fall 2016                      Guest Lecturer for 69 Master's in Social Work students at University of Houston  
course: SOCW 6305: ***Research and Knowledge Building in Social Work Practice*** (Topic: Chapter 9: Critically appraising non-experimental quantitative studies)
- Spring 2015                  Guest Lecturer for 27 Master's in Social Work students at University of Houston  
course: SOCW 7325 ***Assessment in Social Work Practice*** (Topic: Psychosocial Assessment)

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**Mentoring of Professional and Graduate Students- University of Houston**

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- 2022- Present                  PharmD students: Daniel Listiyo, Kotoko Ai, Alexxis Hutson, University of Houston College of Pharmacy
- 2021-Present                  Master's student: Wafaa Abu Aisheh, Hashimite University, Jordan
- 2019-2021                      PhD students: Vaishnavi Tata; Precious A Anyanwu, College of Pharmacy
- 2019-2021                      PharmD student: Lillian Duong, College of Pharmacy
- 2017                                Graduate Research Showcase, Poster Prep Training: mentoring 20 Master's and PhD students on poster presentation
- 2016-2017                      MSW student: Berenice Hernandez Becerra, Graduate College of Social Work

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**Teaching Experience- University of Jordan (Undergraduate students)**

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**Course Development and /or Revision**

2009-2011	<b><i>Maternal Health</i></b> (Practicum) Revised course, 3 credit hours, Fall Class size: 15-25 Nursing students
2008-2010	<b><i>Community Health Nursing</i></b> (Practicum) Revised course, 3 credit hours, Spring Class size: 10-15 Nursing students
2007-2010	<b><i>Occupational Health and Safety</i></b> (Theory) Developed course, 3 credit hours, Spring Class size: 50-60 multidisciplinary students
2006-2008	<b><i>Foundations of Nursing I</i></b> (Theory) Developed course, 3 credit hours, Fall Class size: 50-60 Nursing students
2006-2008	<b><i>Physical Examination</i></b> (Practicum) Revised course, 3 credit hours, Spring Class size: 15-25 Nursing students
2006- 2010	<b><i>Psychiatry/Mental Health</i></b> (Practicum) Revised course, 3 credit hours, Spring and Summer Class size: 15-25 Nursing students
2005-2010	<b><i>Foundations of Nursing</i></b> (Practicum) Revised course, 3 credit hours, Fall Class size: 15-25 Nursing students

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### **Editorial Appointment**

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#### ***Editorial Board:***

2015- 2017                      Perspectives on Social Work Journal (PSW)

#### ***Reviewer of manuscripts***

2022-present                      Journal of Substance Use  
2021-present                      BMC Healthcare  
2019-present                      American Journal of Public Health (AJPH)  
2019-present                      Journal of Pharmacy Practice  
2017-present                      Hispanic Health Care International

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### **Service to the Profession/Academic Discipline**

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2022- Present                      Abstract reviewer for Society for Prevention Research (SPR)  
2022- Present                      Abstract reviewer for American Pharmacists Association Conference  
2019- Present                      Abstract reviewer for Academy Health Annual Research Meeting  
2019- Present                      Abstract reviewer for Society for Prevention Research  
2018- Present                      Abstract reviewer for the American Public Health Association Meeting and Expo (APHA)

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### Professional and Committee Membership

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2022- Present	Affiliated Faculty of the Mobility Institute at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Social Work
2016- Present	Member of the American Public Health Association
2016- Present	Member of Society for Social Work and Research
2021- Present	Member of Society for Prevention Research
2021- Present	Member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma): Phi Chi Chapter

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### Honors and Awards

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2014-2018	Graduate fellowship from University of Houston to pursue PhD in Social Work
2012	Full Scholarship from the University of Jordan to pursue PhD in Social work
2005	Graduate Assistantship from the University of Jordan, School of Medicine, Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine
2004	Graduate Assistantship from the University of Jordan, School of Medicine, Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine

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### Community Service

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2018- Present	Food For Thoughts (FFT), River Oaks Islamic Center, Food services for Homeless population in Houston area
2017- Present	<p>Interfaith Ministries, Refugees Services, Women Empowerment Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provided training to interfaith ministry staff and volunteers on culturally appropriate communication with incoming refugees from the Middle East and Africa.</li> <li>2. Help communicate and explain sensitive medical and social issues applying the mix of practical ability and education</li> <li>3. Provided unique access to many Arabic speaking refugee women through continuous interaction and communication</li> </ol>

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### Certifications

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- **COVID-19 Contact tracing**
- **Advanced Grant Writing**
- **CITI:** Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative at the University of Miami
- **VOICES/VOCES (with Safe in City):** Video Opportunities for Innovative Condom Education and Safer Sex
- **PBC:** Comprehensive HIV/STD & Viral Hepatitis Protocol Based Counseling
- **SBIRT:** Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment
- **RESPECT:** An Effective, Individual, Client-focused HIV Prevention Intervention
- **MI:** Motivational Interviewing