Raul I. Garcia, D.M.D., is Professor and Chair, Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research at Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine. He is also the Director of the Northeast Center for Research to Evaluate and Eliminate Dental Disparities, established at BU in 2001 and supported by the National Institutes of Health. The Center’s aims are to identify the determinants of oral health disparities and to design and implement community-based interventions to eliminate them, with a current focus on children and their caregivers. In addition, he has investigated the role that oral conditions may play as risk factors for cardiovascular disease and other systemic health outcomes, and how oral conditions may affect health-related quality of life. In the area of health policy, his department at Boston University has implemented new programs to enhance access to oral health care by underserved populations and to recruit students from underrepresented groups to enter the oral health professions. Dr. Garcia is a past president of the Hispanic Dental Association, the national organization whose primary mission is to improve the oral health of Latinos in the U.S.

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