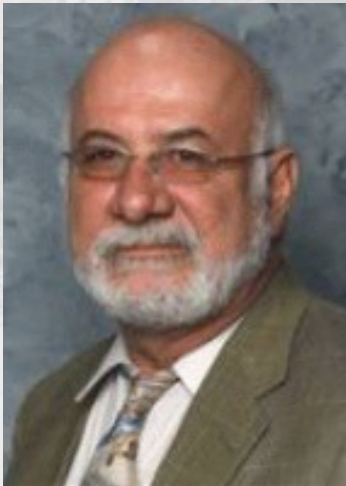


MIGRATION, AGING AND HEALTH IN WESTERN COUNTRIES

The rising number of immigrants to the United States and other western countries has been accompanied by rising interest in the characteristics of immigrants including their health and health care needs. Much of the research in the United States has focused on the so-called Hispanic Paradox or the favorable health of Hispanics despite lower average socioeconomic status as well as other risk factors, with recent research beginning to pay attention to dietary and genetic factors. Immigrants from other ethnic origins to the United States, as well as to Canada and Australia, enjoy a health advantage, the so called health immigrant effect, over native populations. In all three countries there is evidence of a convergence of the health of immigrants to the health of the native born over approximately 10 to 20 years. There is also evidence that by the time they reach old age immigrants experience high rates of comorbidity and disability. Immigrant health selection appears to be the chief reason explaining the immigrant health advantage. Immigrants to Europe also appear to be health selected but not as consistently as in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. Immigrant enclaves appear to confer health advantages in the United States among Hispanics but appear to have negative consequences in Europe. More attention needs to be given to the health and health care needs of the rising numbers of refugees to Europe as well as refugees in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere.

Kyriakos S. Markides received his Ph.D. in Sociology in 1976 from Louisiana State University. He is currently the Annie and John Gnitzinger Distinguished Professor of Aging and Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Dr. Markides is the Editor of the Journal of Aging and Health which he founded in 1989. He is the author or co-author of over 370 publications most of which are on aging and health issues in the Mexican American population as well as minority aging issues in general. His research has been funded continuously by the National Institutes of Health since 1980. He is currently Principal Investigator of the Hispanic EPESE (Established Population for the Epidemiological Study of the Elderly), a longitudinal study of the health of older Mexican Americans from the five Southwestern states. Dr. Markides is credited with coining the term 'Hispanic Epidemiological Paradox' (with J. Coreil) which is currently the leading theme in Hispanic health. The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) has listed Dr. Markides among the most highly cited social scientists in the world. Dr. Markides is the 2006 recipient of the Distinguished Mentorship Award of the Gerontological Society of America, and the 2009 Distinguished Professor Award in Gerontology and Geriatrics from UCLA. He was also the inaugural recipient of the Pearmain Prize for outstanding service to the field of aging from the Roybal Institute on Aging at the University of Southern California. The prize was awarded in February, 2010. He is the 2015 recipient of the Robert W. Kleemeier Award from the Gerontological Society of America for his contributions to research on aging.



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CHAired BY: PROF YEUNG WEI-JUN JEAN

PROVOST'S CHAIR PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR FAMILY AND POPULATION RESEARCH, AND A RESEARCH LEADER IN THE ASIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

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