

Dr. Rafael Pérez-Escamilla

University of Connecticut

Professor, Nutritional Sciences

Director, *NIH EXPORT Center for Eliminating Health Disparities Among Latinos (CEHDL)*

rafael.perez-escamilla@uconn.edu

860-486-5073



Biography

Dr. Pérez-Escamilla received his doctorate in Nutrition from the University of California, Davis in 1991. He currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in community nutrition and minority health at UConn, Storrs and in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care (UConn, Farmington). Dr. Pérez-Escamilla is an internationally recognized scholar leading/co-leading four major capacity building projects in Connecticut, Ghana, and Brazil. Each project includes research, teaching, and community-based extension/outreach components. He has acted as a consultant for health and nutrition projects funded by UNICEF, USAID, UNDP, and the World Bank. Dr. Pérez-Escamilla acts as Scientific Advisor to the Hispanic Health Council, Inc. (Hartford, CT). He has received numerous professional and academic awards and is a member of prestigious professional associations, including the American Society for Nutrition, and the International Society for Research on Human Milk and Lactation. His research experience ranges from secondary data analyses of nationally representative health and nutrition surveys to randomized clinical/community trials.

Current Research Interests

Dr. Pérez-Escamilla conducts studies on breastfeeding determinants and interventions, maternal nutrition during pregnancy, household food security assessment, and the impact of maternal HIV on growth and development of young children in Sub-Saharan Africa. His research/capacity-building programs have been supported with over \$15 million in grants from The NIH, USDA, CDC, USAID, and the Donaghue Medical Research Foundation.