

Coping Repertory, Acculturation and Preterm Labor



Paulette Chaponniere

Department: Nursing

Contact information: 395-7426

chaponniere@hope.edu

Education and experiences

Doctoral Studies in International Health; Masters in Public Health; Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Bachelor of Arts

Areas of expertise: International health; health management; cross-cultural service; storytelling; village level health care

Grants and awards: Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship; Sigma Theta Tau

Key publications and presentations: Child Survival training manuals developed for CDC and UNICEF; presentations at Tropical Medicine conference and Child Survival Conferences; consultation reports for governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Acknowledgements: Board member for the National Council of International Health; Board Member of Holland Hospital Foundation

Graphical description of research dissertation proposal: Stress affects birth outcomes. Preterm labor cannot be predicted on medical factors only, and more research is being carried out to identify the impact of psychosocial factors, in particular stress. Coping styles in response to stress are shaped by an individual's culture. The "acculturation hypothesis" (Jones and Bond, 1999) suggests that new immigrants bring the traditions, values, and behaviors of their culture, which support health. Among Hispanic populations, the less acculturated have been found to smoke less, use alcohol less, have better nutrition, and experience a lower mortality rate. One could expect that a new immigrant experiences increased stress, and that pregnancy in a new country would exacerbate levels of stress. Yet, immigrant Hispanic women have better birth outcomes. Does the coping style of immigrant Hispanic women contribute to this outcome? Perception of social support has been studied in relationship to preterm labor. This prospective study will examine the association between coping styles and birth outcomes among 107 pregnant Hispanic and non-Hispanic Caucasian women living in Western Michigan.