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# University Hospital News: November 1989 no. 2

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## Boston University School of Medicine

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# NEWS

For Immediate Release  
November 1989

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### BUSPH FACULTY MEMBER RECEIVES GRANT FROM WILLIAM T. GRANT FOUNDATION

Boston, Mass.--Hortensia Amaro, Ph.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and public health at Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH), has been awarded a \$175,000 grant from the William T. Grant Foundation Faculty Scholars Program to continue research on how the health of Hispanic children and adolescents is impacted by depression, drinking and drug use in the family.

According to Amaro, the few existing studies on the physical and mental health of Hispanic children suggest that Hispanic youths have disproportionately high rates of health problems, teenage pregnancy and substance abuse and low educational achievement, in comparison to non-Hispanic white children. "As in other populations, depression and substance abuse among Hispanic parents may be associated with increased negative outcomes for children and adolescents. In addition, other factors not relevant for the general population, such as stress associated with immigration and acculturation, may exacerbate parental depression and alcohol abuse," she adds.

The goal of the William T. Grant Faculty Scholars Program is to promote children's mental health by supporting investigators who work in the field of stress and coping for school-age children. The Foundation is also providing funding for Amaro to research methods of preventing drug use among adolescent girls.

Amaro has worked extensively with issues pertaining to the health care of Black and Hispanic populations in the United States, including drug use among women and adolescents, gender- and ethnic-related barriers to alcoholism

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treatment, sexual and reproductive attitudes and behaviors among Hispanics, and prevention of HIV infection among Hispanics and pregnant women.

She has published numerous papers on topics, such as Drug Use Among Adolescent Mothers, Hispanic Women and AIDS: Prevention and Research Recommendations, and Violence During Pregnancy: The Relationship to Drug Use Among Women and Their Partners.