

Clinician Highlight

December 2023



Linda Herrera Santos, MD, PhD

*Attending Psychiatrist, Massachusetts General Hospital;
Director, MGH Hispanic Psychiatry Clinic*

Tell us a little about your clinical practice and your role in your practice/division/department.

I'm a psychiatrist at MGH, where I currently hold the role of Director of the MGH Hispanic Psychiatry Clinic. I also work as an attending psychiatrist within the Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Service and the Acute Psychiatry Service at MGH. My responsibilities also involve mentoring MGH/McLean Psychiatry residents, co-directing the Sociocultural Didactics Series, and teaching medical students. My professional interests revolve around bridging the gap in mental health services for Hispanic communities. I am deeply committed to promoting inclusivity within healthcare and providing exceptional, empathetic, and culturally sensitive care.

When did you come to MGH and why?

In 2018, I joined the MGH/McLean Adult Psychiatry Residency Program, marking my entry into the MGH community. Interestingly, my journey with MGH began earlier, during my fourth year of medical school, when I completed a clinical rotation here. The incredible warmth exuded by the people left a lasting impression on me. Despite the demanding nature of the clinical service, there was an unmistakable sense of welcome. It was evident that while the pursuit of clinical excellence was paramount, it was coupled with a profound dedication to education. This combination truly made MGH an exceptional environment for training.

Is there a project or program you want to tell us a little about?

I take immense pride in founding the Hispanic Psychiatry Clinic, an initiative developed under the mentorship of Katia Canenguez, PhD, EdM. The mission of the clinic is to improve access to high-quality mental health care for monolingual Spanish-speaking patients and to promote the professional education of Hispanic Psychiatry trainees. Funding its pilot phase was a significant achievement, made possible through an MGH Collaboration Catalyst Grant and a Research Grant from the MGB Centers of Expertise. Our ongoing efforts involve expanding the clinic and the range of services we offer. The ultimate goal is to contribute towards addressing the gap in access to mental health services within Spanish-speaking communities.

What is one thing you love about your work?

One aspect of my work that I truly cherish is the profound connections I form with my patients and colleagues. Building meaningful relationships with my patients, whether in the outpatient clinic, the medical floor, or the emergency department, and being part of their journey toward better mental health is incredibly rewarding. Equally inspiring are the interactions with my colleagues, some of the sharpest minds in the field, which consistently challenge and motivate me. These relationships, whether with patients seeking care or fellow professionals pushing boundaries, make my work truly fulfilling.

Tell us a little bit about your life outside of medicine.

Outside of work, my life thrives in the roles of a parent and partner. With two lively daughters, aged 8 and 2, my days are filled with the joys and challenges of parenting alongside my husband, also a physician. We enjoy family time through cooking, baking, long walks, reading, and movie nights together. We are fortunate to live in a multigenerational household where my parents are also an integral part of our lives.