

Magda A. de la Torre – Biosketch

Magda A. de la Torre, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, received both her certificate and bachelor's degrees as a Registered Dental Hygienist from University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHealth SA) and her Master's in Public Health from Texas A&M University, School of Rural Public Health with concentrations in both Health Policy & Management and Social & Behavioral Health. A dental professional for 35 years, she has dedicated 20 years in Higher Education.

As a member of the faculty at UTHealth SA, she was awarded the *Presidential Teaching Excellence Award* given by the University to faculty members demonstrating excellence in teaching and promoting student learning and overall dedication to teaching. Prof. de la Torre has also received the *Spectrum Award for Excellence and Leadership in Teaching, Research, and Service* given by the School of Health Professions. She was inducted into the Academy of Master Teachers and was named one of Latina Style Magazine's, "Brilliant Latinas in Health Care".

Her varied career includes providing care for children of migrant farmworkers while working for the State of Colorado and as a Project Officer at HRSA. She is one of three principal investigators for the Texas Workforce grant and Co-Investigator for the Post-Doctoral Training grant and the Co-Director of the DENT ECHO Telehealth Webinars.

She has served as a leader in several national organizations, a member of the American Public Health Association (APHA), she has been editor of APHA's Oral Health Section newsletter, elected to the Section Council and Governing Council. Also, has served on the Board of Trustees for the National Hispanic Dental Association and recently elected as a Board Member of the Texas Oral Health Coalition. Previously she was appointed as the National Head Start Oral Health Consultant for Native American and Migrant children and is currently the Caribbean Consultant of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. Currently, she serves as the Texas State representative for the Opportunity, Progress, and Equity Network (OPEN).

Ms. de la Torre has authored journal articles and textbook chapters. Her areas of expertise include Behavioral Health, Cultural Competency, Health Literacy, and Service-Learning. Magda teaches first, second, and fourth year dental students. In addition, she works with post-doctoral dental students in their dental public health residency.

She enjoys photography, reading, and spending time with her husband, Rob, and two "fur babies".