### Johanne I. Laboy



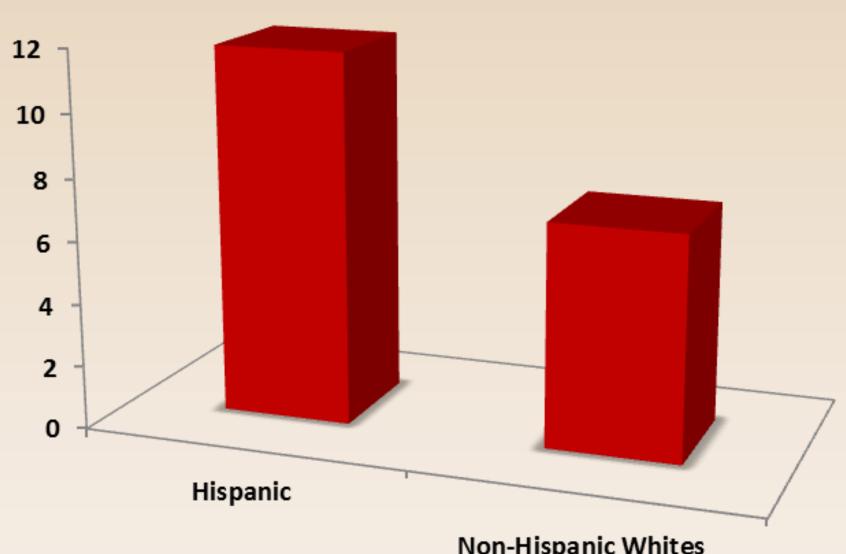


# Background

- Irrational health beliefs (IHBs) refer to the illogical opinions, attitudes and thoughts about health that lack empirical support and pragmatism .
- IHBs and health myths may impede an individual's ability to seek health information, seek medical care, adhere to medical treatments or even make reasonable health-care decisions.<sup>2</sup>

#### Diabetes

- Diabetes is a chronic condition characterized by the body's inability to properly control blood sugar levels.
- Minorities are more prone to developing diabetes.
- Hispanics have the highest prevalence of diabetes.<sup>3</sup>



# Theory

- **Activity Theory** is generally concerned with culturally mediated and socially situated activities. Looks at the big picture and explains why.
- **Actor Network Theory** is concerned with the interaction between actors and the networks and helps explain the moment-by-moment translations and mechanisms of persuasion. It helps answer how.

# Research Questions

This research project was specifically designed to explore the health belief "diabetes is curable."

**RQ1**: How is information about the curability of diabetes spread? **RQ2**: What are the main intermediaries and mediators in the process?

# Actor Network Theory, Irrational Health Beliefs, & Health Myths: Dead-Wrong Assumptions in the Diabetes Network

# Methods

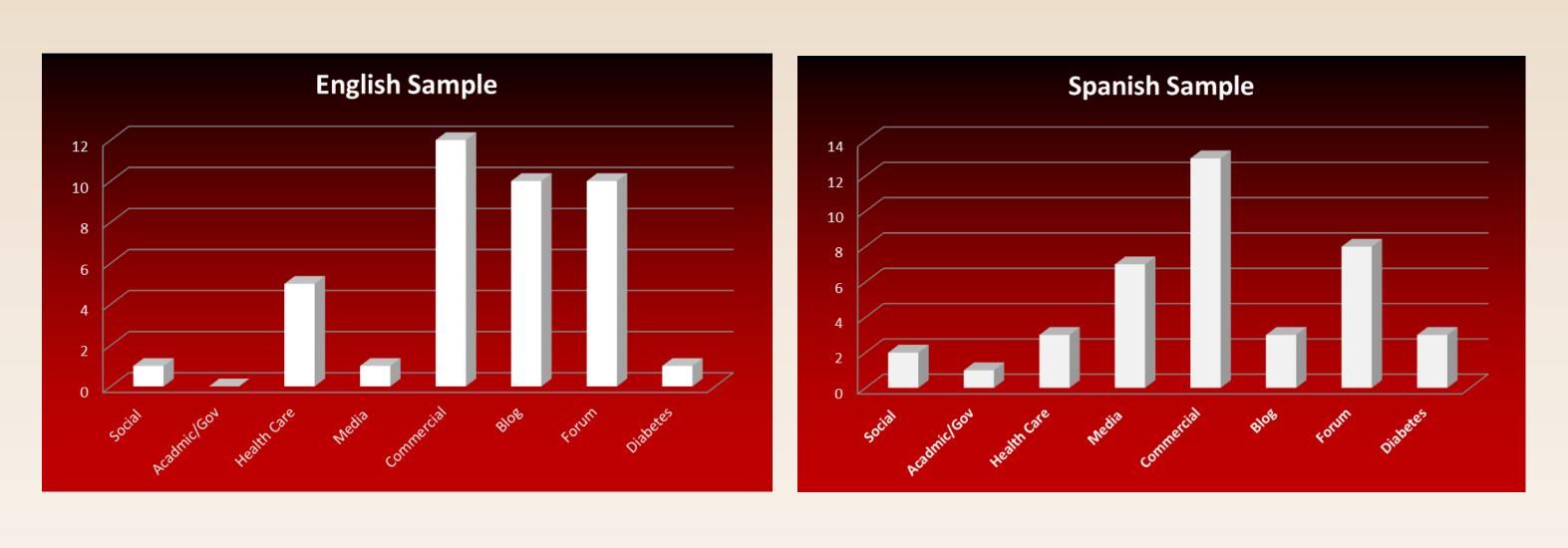
- Identified and categorized existing networks: family, social, health care, media outlets, commercial, as well as, online blogs, forums and diabetes related webpages.
- Identified and categorized the main actors and switchers disseminating information about IHBs: persons, businesses, organizations, or anonymous contributors.
- Conducted a Google search using the term *diabetes is curable*. Used the URLs from the search results to determine the source of the information (social webpage, health webpage, media webpage, etc.). Each URL was individually accessed, and pertinent information was extracted from each page.

### **English Sample**

Diabetes is curable Results: 59,800 Relevant Non-repeated: 391 **Randomly Selected: 40** 

## **Spanish Sample**

La diabetes se cura. Results: 70,500 Relevant Non-repeated: 259 Randomly Selected: 40



#### **Data Collection and Analysis Grounded Theory & Content Analysis Made Connections** Line by Line Conceptualized **Identified Key Words** Categorized

Diabetes is curable: learn how now Diabetes is curable through nature-based therapy and di Diabetes is curable and reversable Na<mark>briel Cousens</mark> rnal of Applied Physiology, Christian Roberts (2005) of University of California Active Low-Carber Forum Forum Participants t forum participants responded that it is r No sources provided. Only personal testimonies and experiences o sources provided. A member talked about her mother's experience with diabe lo source for video provide Canadian Nobel prize winners, Banting, Best South Australia Deven Westword Blogs: Jenny fiabl≓am/Social.cadmic/Go-lealth Car∉ Media Commercia Online Online Diabetes Main Actor/Swtich ar Network Network Network Outlet lealth Page Blog Forum Veb Page Contributing You can cure diabetes
You
Spain
Diabetes is curable with a one hour laparoscopic operation
"Telediario de Interconomia" Costa Rica Diabetes is a chronic disease that people manage for life Diabetes is curable with Alpha Tea Diabetes is not curable but studies are being conducted to find a cure iabetes is not curable swers indicated that diabetes is not cur onal experience with diabetes U.S. Dr. David Cummings, plus a list of 11 cited reference: Elite Medical/Dr. Alvaro Errara (video) 1 I Vive con Diabetes 1 Diabetes is not curable. It is manageable. Dr. Esteban Rios Rodriguez book (Internist and endochrinologist Mexico Diabetes is a manageable disease but many myths surround it Dr. Takashi Kandowaki, Japan

#### Findings Dec 7, 2007 1:38 pm actually diabetes type II is curable, with diet and proper management. diabetes type however is not, with type I the only sure fire way is pancreas transplant, but the outcome is not always the best. Report Abuse 0% 0 Votes he general view is that diabetes is not permanently curable. But it can be ermanently controlled with treatment or life style changes or both methods. patient with type 1 diabetes should continue to take Insulin through out life. n the case of type 2 diabetes, after full control of the disease, the patient may stop you think there is no cure to diabetes? Think again rugs, if lifestyle changes that reduce the risk factors are practiced throughout his/h ew discoveries in alternative (herbal) medicine points out the 100% efficacy of the Philippine variety of umini)to permanently reverse the symptoms of Diabetes Mellitus: to Please see the 1 st web site for promising new research for cure of type 1 diabetes by oth type "A" and type "B" diabetics. ancreatic islet cell transplantation Please see the 2 nd site for what is possible at the moment t cured myself in 1994, since then I no longer suffer diabetes 1. http://fileblogs.com/Permanent-Cure-forwelcome Issues, Questions, and Comments, . http://ezinearticles.com/?ls-There-a-Per. Report Abuse S. No doctor will prescribe a herbal remedy except se with specialty in topical medicine 20% 1 Vote Information generally spread through the "voices," Claim is usually dismissed by this network pinions & beliefs of professionals perceived as experts Provides scientifically sound information and educates al Ouestion, Get an Answer ASAP! to JustAnswer, the largest online question and Expert answer site fied Experts are ready to answer your specific questions 24/7 JE TYPE 2 DIABETES IS CURABLE BY PROPER DIET, WEIGHT Ask your own question URABLE BY PROPER DIET, WEIGHT REDUCTION AND EXERCISE WHEN DISCOVERED EARLY tted: 900 days and 19 hours a 🖸 SHARE Mas.. ot exactly true that type 2 diabetes is cuarble with the methods that you have mentioned. Type 2 diabets is caused by two RARAÁ, POR QUE SUS AGUAS SALEN DEL SAN VER MAS DETALLE.. CLICK Comments made by individuals through those networks vertisements, and even radio programing 🗱 Carl Schick | F 📕 salud esVIDA Cómo te ayudamos? Rathnara Health Care & He... About 🖒 Like Salud A-Z Salud de las Estrellas Medicina natural Medicamentos Farmacia DIABETES IS CURABLE Joined 06/19/2011 Facebook Consumer Reports | Plan Obama de Salud | Comenta en nuestros foros ntegrated method to treat diabetes & Other dise President appointed adviser to the ministry of indigenous Más vínculo entre sodas y diabetes rated Medicine where they practise this syst , it seems that people are still not quite sure of this to 😬 0 Comentarios | Tamaño del texto: 📒 🛛 🕂 olicado 26/04/13 15:00 - Por HealthDay prity of them still tend to seek the assistance of Wes iers. But as Traditional Ayurvedic Consultant Phy http://www.rathnaraherbal.co ala of Ropa Ayurvedic Hospital, Kottawa, Mattegoda Page Owners nos investigadores europeos hallaron que las robabilidades aumentaron en hasta un 22 por ciento a ese ivel de consumo be in a balanced state. Also 'Dhatus' should be i ng to Ayurveda, diabetes is classified as Kapaja UEVES, 25 de abril (HealthDay News) -- Beber apenas un refresco endulzado con azúcar de 12 onzas (35.5 centilitros) al día puede aumentar el riesgo de desarrollar diabetes tipo 2 hasta un 22 por ciento plantea un estudio europeo Oué se habla de.. Disseminated information through academic reports. "la Diabetes" en Twitter No opportunity for response or comments espanolinks nuevascirugias: ++++ La cirugía metabólica, nueva aliada para la diabetes tipo 2 -Diabetes DiarioMedico.com..... j.mp/Iu2L71 Life Lines 23 minutes ago • reply • retweet • favorite icianaArellano La cirugía para la obesidad puede June/July 2013 tratar mejor la diabetes tipo 2 ... - El xn--pas-sma.com (España) bit.ly/JErSRd Open as PDF] 22 minutes ago • reply • retweet • favorite Diabetes - The Medical Perspective controlatudiabt La diabetes es una enfermedad que se Medication Update puede prevenir, pero hay que educar a las persona para <u>Recipes To Try</u> que tengan buenos habitos alimenticios y de vida. Menu Suggestions 20 minutes ago • reply • retweet • favorite



# Discussion

**RQ1:** How is information about the curability of diabetes spread?

#### **Actor Network Theory/HOW:**

**Problematization**: Individuals find diabetes a major problem and search for information and assistance.

**Interessement**: The individual's desire to hear that there is a cure may cause a person to disassociate from other agents and their beliefs — may ignore the rational options.

**RQ2:** What/Who are the main intermediaries and mediators in the process?

**Intermediaries**: Individuals with low health literacy, no power, cannot influence the claim, cannot be ignored.

**Mediators**: Bloggers, businesses, organizations, participants who reject the claim, anyone who has the power to spread or stop the spread of the IHB.

#### **Activity Theory/WHY**:

**Subjects**: Low-health literacy, little ability to understand the outcomes,

individuals who are not thinking about how their actions affect others. Labor Division: Individuals of low SES, generally less educated and more vulnerable to claims, lack scientific understanding, the educated take advantage. **Rules**: Generally individuals are not going to make claims that will hurt others. Rule is not followed online.

**Community**: Social context is different for the Hispanic community. Hispanic participants are more willing to try alternative medicines. They want to believe in the claim.

**Mediation**: Online information is mediated through the existing networks. These networks may become significant for individuals who need family or peer support for gathering and applying information

## Conclusion

#### Interventions

**Political/Legal:** Develop global and national policies that address the problem and are targeted to the business/organization and healthcare networks. **Medical:** Health care professionals must develop cultural competence to better disseminate information to their patients.

**Socio-Cultural:** People with diabetes rely on social networks for disease management.

## References

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