

Yamnia Cortes

I entered the Cardiovascular Epidemiology Training Program after completing my PhD in Nursing at Columbia University, where I also received a BS/MS in Nursing and MPH in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences. Prior to Columbia University, I received a BA in Biology and a concentration in Latino Studies from William College. My interests in epidemiology, health disparities, and women's health have been fueled by my experiences as an asthma educator and registered nurse in the South Bronx, where I lived until recently. My dissertation focused on cardiovascular disease risk and bone loss in HIV-infected postmenopausal women. While conducting my dissertation, I decided to pursue postdoctoral training in cardiovascular epidemiology to gain a more in-depth understanding of cardiovascular disease determinants and early markers of atherosclerosis. I chose the University of Pittsburgh because of its long-standing history in women's health research and unique training in the Ultrasound Research Laboratory. Following training, I hope to design studies that use subclinical measures of atherosclerosis to guide the development of interventions that promote health and reduce cardiovascular disease risk.