

Alfonso R. Latoni, Ph.D., joined the NIEHS Division of Extramural Research and Training as Branch Chief of the Scientific Review Branch in 2013. Prior to coming to NIEHS, he was deputy chief of review in the Scientific Review Branch of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, from 2008 to 2013. From 2005 to 2008, he served in the Center for Scientific Review (CSR), NIH, where he was a scientific review officer in the Health of the Population Integrated Review Group, and later in the Biobehavioral and Behavioral Processes Integrated Review Group, where he was responsible for the Adult Psychopathology and Disorders of Aging Study Section. His previous appointment with the NIA was in the then Scientific Review Office, where he served as the scientific review administrator of the Behavior and Social Science of Aging Study Section (NIA-S). Prior to joining the NIH, from 2000 to 2002, Dr. Latoni was program director of the Minority Affairs Program of the American Sociological Association (ASA), and program director of ASA's Minority Fellowship Program, a T32 Institutional Research Training grant supported by the NIH National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Previously, from 1986 to 2000, he was associate professor of sociology and applied social research at the Universidad de Puerto Rico (UPR), Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez, Departamento de Ciencias Sociales y Centro de Investigación Social Aplicada (CISA). Dr. Latoni's primary research interests have been at the intersection of social and economic health inequalities, and disparities among underrepresented populations, with particular emphasis on the underclass, the elderly, and the homeless. During the early 1980s, as a doctoral student in Boston College's Department of Sociology, he conducted extensive fieldwork in several Central American and Caribbean countries, which were undergoing significant social and political change, to examine new and emerging public health systems, as well as innovative and participatory social experiments regarding the delivery of health care services. While at UPR-Mayagüez, he was responsible for the formation and curriculum development of undergraduate courses in the sociology of health and well-being, social economy, and social policy, as well as contemporary sociological theory and the history of sociological thought, among others. As a researcher in CISA, his primary projects focused on training undergraduate students in diverse areas of applied social research, conducting fieldwork studies, and mentoring CISA's research assistants in their training and preparation for postgraduate studies. Dr. Latoni received his B.A. in Sociology and Political Science from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, his M.A. in Latin American Studies (social and economic development) from Georgetown University, and his Ph.D. in Sociology (social economy and social policy) from Boston College.