

DRA. THELMA S. SANCHEZ VILLANUEVA

Biosketch

THELMA S. SANCHEZ-VILLANUEVA, MD

Dr. Sanchez-Villanueva is a Mexican psychiatrist. She got her medical degree from the University of Guadalajara School of Medicine and completed her residency in Psychiatry at the Hospital Civil de Guadalajara of the same University. She earned her master's degree in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy by the Asociación Psicoanalítica Jalisciense and she is in the process of earning her PhD degree in Psychoanalysis from the Intercontinental University of Mexico.

Certified in General Psychiatry by the Mexican Board of Psychiatry, Dr. Sanchez has published chapters of books and articles as author and coauthor on the areas of Covid and mental health, gender, dysmorphia, education in psychiatry and human rights.

She has a long history of involvement in medical societies, dating back to her psychiatry residency. She has participated in the Jalisco College of Psychiatrists (CPJ) as a council member, treasurer; the Mexican College of Psychiatrists (CMP) as a board member; the Mexican Psychiatric Association (APM) as chapter coordinator, academic section coordinator, regional vice president, secretary of international relations, secretary of ethics, secretary of admissions, and recently as general secretary; the Association of Obstetric Psychoprophylaxis (APO) as member; the American Psychiatric Association (APA) as an international fellow and member of the Hispanic Psychiatrists, the Women and The Neuromodulation Caucuses; the American Society of Hispanic Psychiatrists (ASHP); the Mexican Association of Neuromodulation (SMN); and the International Association for Women's Mental Health (IAWMH). She is part of Warmi collaborative network for women mental health in Latin America. The latest project she is involved is in the Mexican Consortium of Neuropsychopharmacology (MCNP), where she is one of the founders.

She regularly participates in radio, TV, and podcast programs focused on mental health.

She is otherwise a fulltime clinician, who directs the SMAG clinic specialized in Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation and DEPREF esketamine clinic. For 5 years she was Head of Outpatient Psychiatry at the oldest public hospital in the western part of the country, the Hospital Fray Antonio Alcalde in Guadalajara, Mexico.

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Throughout her career she has taught at the faculty of dentistry, in the psychiatry residency program and in the master's program in psychoanalytic psychotherapy.

Since 2021 she has been a representative for Zone 3 (Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean) of the World Psychiatric Association. Within the organization, she has served on various committees at different times. For the past six years, she has participated in temporary committees for thematic, regional, and world congresses, as well as in scientific, supervisory, organizing and fellowship committees. Her most extensive participation was in the recent world congress in Mexico City in 2024. She has also served on permanent committees such as the Standing Committee on Planning, ACRE, and EDIT. Currently, she is a member of the Secretary of Academic Sections.

She has acted as a liaison for joint projects with local member societies in the region, with APAL, ACCAP, and institutions such as the Order of Saint John of God, with whom academic and financial agreements have been established to support mental health. As a representative of the Latin American region, she participated in the Prague agreement looking for funding the global mental health.

She has also collaborated in organized volunteer activities and obtained donations for Central America and Ukraine and provided mentorship in Central America.

She is part of the editorial board of the journal WPA Education and Psychiatry.