



2023 TAHIT Annual Educational SYMPOSIUM

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital
November 3, 2023

 www.tahit.org

**The Texas Association of Healthcare
Interpreters and Translators**

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TAHIT

Our Mission

To promote language access within healthcare by facilitating training, education, and communication between government, providers, interpreters, translators, and individual stakeholders. We pursue our mission with a commitment to improving health equity, clinical outcomes, and patient safety for people with limited English proficiency.



Mission and Background

History

The Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators (TAHIT) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit association founded in 2005 by language access pioneers Esther Diaz and Patricia Yacavone. Discussions held at the AATIA-HITA Regional Conference on Translation and Interpretation Topics in Austin on July 30-31, 2004 prompted the creation of TAHIT. Founding members discussed the possibility of forming a new organization focused on the needs of healthcare interpreters and translators in Texas. Interestingly, a similar impromptu discussion among judiciary interpreters was being held in the next meeting room that resulted in the formation of the Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (TAJIT). Participants went back and forth between the two rooms sharing what was being discussed. As a result, after much deliberation in both rooms, the sister organizations were baptized with similar names. Tricia Yacovone came well-prepared for this meeting. She staffed a table at the conference to drum up support for a medical interpreters association which she called "TAMI." She came with a poster bearing that name as well as a logo designed by her own son. She led the impromptu discussion described above in which the name of the organization was established as TAHIT and a mission statement was drafted. Soon after that first meeting, Tricia Yacovone and Esther Diaz began the paperwork for TAHIT's incorporation and non-profit status recognition. TAHIT's official organizational meeting was held on April 16, 2005, at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas.

THANK YOU 2023 SPONSORS

GOLD



SCOTTISH RITE



LANGUAGE
SERVICES

SILVER



PARTNERS



Our Board



Mona Elshenawy, MA, CHI™ is a community engagement and diversity professional with Carter BloodCare in North Texas. Mona obtained a Master's Degree in Medical Sociology and Anthropology from Texas Woman's University and completed undergraduate work at The American University in Cairo, Egypt. She has worked for over a decade as a Spanish interpreter, community health manager, and research consultant for Texas Health Resources, Children's Health, and other large healthcare systems in North Texas.



Mona has worked for the federal, state, and municipal government in various roles supporting public health and marketing initiatives [such as the CDC Global Health Division, US House of Representatives, Texas Department of Transportation, Austin Public Health, and the City of Dallas]. As a qualitative researcher, she studies the complex ways in which clinical communication transpires in hospital settings; specifically, as it's manifesting with the advent of telemedicine and virtual health.

Mona Elshenawy
Interim President

Mona's passion for the medical interpreter/translator profession stems from her personal experience growing up in a multicultural and multilingual household. As an Egyptian Mexican American, Mona was raised speaking predominately Spanish. Her mother frequently utilized hospital language access services to support her complex pediatric medical journey; related to her micro-preemie birth (weighing 1 pound 13 ounces). For this reason, Mona is propelled by a strong moral imperative to advocate for language access rights and support the professional development of medical interpreters and translators.

Our Board



Fabio Torres' passion for the interpreting industry began in 1989 when he began his career as International Public Relations Coordinator for the Baptist Convention of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Serving as a liaison between the Portuguese-speaking population and the English-speaking, US-based mission volunteers visiting the area, Fabio coordinated a pool of about 70 volunteer interpreters who were dispatched to 200 churches and community locations all over the city, slums, and rural areas of Rio. Fabio witnessed firsthand that bilingual language skills were not enough to efficiently and effectively transmit an oral message. It was clear to him that having an interpreter who could bridge both language and cultural differences was fundamental to the success of the work being done. From Rio, Fabio moved to the US to pursue his undergraduate and graduate education. In 1996, he received a BA in Religion and Psychology from North Greenville University in Tigerville, South Carolina and then went on to earn a Master of Arts in Church and Community Ministries from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas in 2000.



Fabio Torres
Interim VP

Fabio is a certified healthcare interpreter and a cross-cultural trainer. He has recruited, screened, tested, selected, trained and supervised hundreds of interpreters and has developed, implemented, and taught interpreter training and continuing education courses. He is an experienced language teacher and interpreter trainer who has been able to share his expertise at different levels within the interpreting industry across the United States and internationally. Fabio is a huge advocate for language access. Fabio has been able to contribute to the creation of interpreting and translation legislation at state level, to presentations at professional conferences, and to assisting in the development of national medical interpreting standards, testing and certification. Fabio has been honored to serve on the Board of Directors for the Metroplex Interpreters and Translators Association (MITA), function as an advisor on the Texas State Committee on Legislation for Interpretation and Translation, and as a Director of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC). Fabio currently serves as a commissioner for the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI).

Our Board



Growing up in Venezuela instilled in Fabian a solid desire to assist those in need. So, at just 13 years old, he began volunteering for healthcare community outreach initiatives. Eventually, he joined a prestigious Urban Search and Rescue group as a member and instructor until 2008. Meanwhile, he pursued a medical degree at the Central University of Venezuela. Fabian worked as a physician in an emergency setting in Caracas, Venezuela, as the night shift medical supervisor for a busy emergency room. Unfortunately, due to the unstable political and economic situation in Venezuela, Fabian and his family had to make the difficult decision to start a new life in the United States, his birthplace, leaving behind the possibility of continuing his medical career in Venezuela.

During his training to return to practice medicine in the United States, Fabian worked in different positions within the health sector, from a nursing assistant in a home health setting to a medical interpreter for a reputable health system. He graduated with honors in 2020 with a Master's in Science for Healthcare Leadership and Management at UT Dallas, Naveen Jindal School of Management.

Fabian found the opportunity to apply for a pilot program at the Simmons Cancer Center as the first clinical trial navigator. In this position, he could use the skills he learned as a physician, interpreter, and investigator to identify barriers and biases that could deter the patient's participation in the clinical study. He also promoted awareness through education among clinical care and clinical research staff. Due to the success of this program, Fabian became the Manager of the Clinical Trial Navigation for the Clinical Research Office of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center. In this position, he uses his experience and knowledge to reach the minority population and offer the benefits of being part of the research community.

Fabian advocates for the rights of the Limited English Proficient patients for adequate and reasonable quality healthcare. For that reason, he is a member of the Executive Board of the Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators (TAHIT). He is also a member of the Health Equity & Access Committee of the Texas Society of Clinical Oncology (TxSOC) and the Association of Community Cancer Center (ACCC).



Fabian Robles
Treasurer

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office for Civil Rights

David Hyams, Esq. **Policy Advisor Supervisor**

Hailing from the Piney Woods of East Texas (Nacogdoches), Mr. Hyams joined the great Texan colonization of Colorado when his family relocated to the Rocky Mountains in the late 1980's. A graduate of Colorado State University (B.S., Health & Exercise Science), Denver Seminary (M.A., Philosophy of Religion), Georgia State University (M.A., Philosophy), and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law (J.D.), Mr. Hyams spent the first nine years of his legal career in private practice, specializing in commercial litigation and civil rights. He joined the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Office for Civil Rights in 2017, where he serves as a Supervisory Policy Advisor in the Policy Division, handling language access and other matters.

Mr. Hyams has been instrumental in the revitalization of the language access program at HHS. In the last year alone, he has helped relaunch the HHS Language Access Steering Committee, which consists of representatives from HHS's 25 Operating and Staff Divisions and helps steer language access policy for the Department. He also helped draft the first annual language access progress report, which charts HHS's progress in overcoming language access barriers. In partnership with FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, Mr. Hyams also assisted with compliance reviews of 19 states regarding their provision of language access services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. He also helped draft a letter from the OCR Director to the states' public health officials, reminding them of their language access and effective communication obligations during the Medicaid unwinding process. Mr. Hyams is presently overseeing the redrafting and updating of the HHS Language Access Plan—the first such update since 2013. He also oversaw the hiring of HHS's first ever Language Access Coordinator, who is working to establish a centralized language access unit for HHS. Finally, in recognition of his numerous accomplishments, the OCR Director selected Mr. Hyams to receive the 2023 Executive Director Honors Award for OCR. This award recognizes a manager or supervisor who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and management skills and has served to inspire and motivate staff to be uniquely effective in producing outstanding work that has advanced OCR's mission.

A frequent public speaker on language access and other topics, David and his wife of 23 years homeschool their two teenage children and reside in West Virginia.



Language Access and the Federal Government: **Eliminating Barriers to Access for Those with Limited English Proficiency (1CEU)**

Effective communication is critical in health care and human services, where miscommunication may lead to misdiagnosis, improper or delayed medical treatment, and barriers to necessary services and programs. HHS is taking important steps to ensure that people have full and equal access to programs and services across the Department, so that no one is left behind because of the language they speak, or other communications barriers based on ability. OCR is committed to guaranteeing that health and human services are inclusive, equitable, accessible, and in compliance with civil rights laws for limited English proficient persons and their families.

Presenter

Ryan Foley

Director of Communications



Ryan Foley is an Australian-born communications coach, human behavior expert, and keynote speaker equipping inspired people with the tools and knowledge they need to enjoy personal success as powerful communicators. Ryan's fascination with verbal and nonverbal communication grew as he studied American Sign Language in the United States. Soon after, he became a nationally certified sign language interpreter. He later gained extensive experience in body language analysis and deception detection through training and mentorship by the best in the business, including the Paul Ekman Institute and former ATF agent, and 'human lie detector,' Janine Driver. After accepting a position as head of training for one of North America's top ten language service companies in 2011, he grew the division to offer some of the most comprehensive interpreter and intercultural communication training programs in the industry. Since 2014, Ryan has consulted for Fortune 500 companies, universities, and professional organizations and coached phenomenal thought leaders, professors, and C-suite executives in the US, Europe, Asia, and Australia on body language, communication, and culture.

Today, Ryan is the Director of Communication for the fastest growing woman-owned language services provider in the world. He is a member of the National Speakers Association and has been featured as a body language expert providing analysis for political debates and current events for Fox 26 and ABC 13 in Houston, Texas.

Introducing SAFE-AI: Shaping Ethical AI in Interpreting (1.5 CEUs)

In 2023, the world was introduced to the incredible abilities of artificial intelligence with the public release of Large Language Models like OpenAI's ChatGPT. A huge leap forward from traditional machine translation, these models and other generative artificial AI resources have presented the reality where AI is engaging in interpretation and translation with a rapidly increasing role. In response, a consortium of interpreting industry thought leaders announced their proposal to form the "Interpreting SAFE-AI Task Force - Stakeholders Advocating for Fair and Ethical AI in Interpreting" with the mission to establish, disseminate, and promote guidelines for the responsible adoption of AI in interpreting by facilitating dialogue among vendors, buyers, practitioners, end-users, regulators, and other stakeholders. On September 18th, and after a significant amount of groundwork including fundraising and the release of an initial stakeholder survey and report performed by the initial workgroup, the Task Force officially launched, led by a 45-member stakeholder assembly.

Learn about the formation of the Task Force, its objectives, initiatives, and how you can stay informed or get involved. <https://safeaitf.org>

Presenter

Julio Jimenez Translation Project Coordinator



Julio is a certified medical interpreter (CHI) and translator (ATA). with 25 years of experience in the fields of Linguistics, Translation and Interpretation. He has translated several published books, is an expert in applied linguistics, syntax, and structural grammar, and has worked for the Watchtower Society, one of the largest translation organizations in the world. Julio has worked in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Spain and the United States as translator, proofreader and trainer alongside a team of experts from all over the Spanish-speaking world. At present, Julio is the Translation Project Coordinator for Children's Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

Meaning Based Interpretation (1.5 CEUs)

Many interpreters work hard to improve their knowledge of the technical terminology of their field. However, there is an area that many tend to overlook: excessive literality and lack of naturalness. It is surprisingly easy to become unduly influenced by the structure of the original language and to interpret it word by word. But this practice makes the message difficult to understand or even incomprehensible. This presentation will show how interpreters can detect and avoid the pitfalls of literality and improve the quality of the final product.

WE'RE HIRING!

Spanish Medical Interpreter

- **Full-time**
- **PRN (as needed)**



language access services

2023 Texas STAR Award Finalists



Congrats!



SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Recruiting
NEW



**BOARD
MEMBERS**

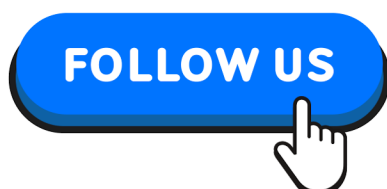
- TAHIT Members
- Multiple Positions
- Two-Year Terms

Interest Form:
<https://forms.gle/QRc7TsoTDBsm5hdE8>

Join Us!



**Become a new TAHIT member
or RENEW your membership by
visiting www.tahit.org**



#TAHIT2023



Position: Phlebotomist 1 – Mobile Collections

Training: Paid training will be held for a total of 6 – 7 weeks. Training will take place at our corporate office, located in Bedford, TX.

Pay: Starting pay is \$17.50 an hour plus differentials when applicable. Prior paid experience is considered when determining the starting rate and is based solely on the number of years of direct phlebotomy experience.

Differentials:

- Mobiles Department Differential (Applied After Training): \$2.00 per hour
- Weekend (Saturday – Sunday): \$1.00 per hour
- Shift differentials for hours worked between the designated hours
 - 2nd Differential (3 pm – 11 pm): \$0.80 per hour
 - 3rd Differential (11 pm – 7 am): \$0.85 per hour
 - Special Hours Differential (9 pm – 5 am): \$1.50 per hour
- Bilingual (Spanish – Must Pass Testing): \$1.00 per hour
- CDL (Mobiles Only): \$3.25 per hour
- Van Driver: \$6.00 a day

Mobiles: If scheduled for a mobile drive, you will report to the Bedford campus and then travel on a van or coach to and from the blood drive location. Mobile schedules vary from week to week, and we ask employees to be flexible with their schedule. Arrival and leave times are different each day. Changes do occur with little to no advance notice only within a schedule scope. You will receive your schedule up to two weeks in advance.

Dress Code: Mobile Collections personnel at Carter BloodCare are expected to always portray a professional image, with appropriate attention to grooming, hygiene and dress.

Visit our website or scan now to apply for this position.

CarterBloodCare.org/apply



OUR WORK IS *Life Saving*



Carter BloodCare

**WE ARE
TAHIT**



Agenda

Conference Registration	8:30am
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Welcome- Opening Remarks	9:00am
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Keynote Speaker- David Hyams	
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Presenter- Ryan Foley	10:30am
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Lunch & Exhibitor Hall	12pm
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Presenter- Julio Jimenez	1:30pm
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Closing Remarks (Door Prizes)	3:00pm
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Texas Star Award Reception	6:00pm
Old Warsaw Steakhouse	