

**IITA 15th Annual Conference**  
**“Building Linguistic Bridges to Promote Excellence in Communication”**  
DMACC Urban Campus, Building 1, 1100 7th Street, Des Moines, IA  
**June 22, 2019**

**Advanced Simultaneous Interpreting: Forensic Drug Analysis** *by Ernest Niño-Murcia*

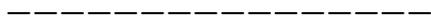
Forensic chemists who identify and analyze controlled substances seized by law enforcement are among the most common witnesses interpreters will encounter in drug cases. The breadth and depth of terms in disciplines such as chemistry, mathematics and general science presented in a fast-paced question and answer format can challenge even experienced, skilled interpreters. This session first aims to give participants a theoretical overview of the underlying scientific principals and concepts covered by forensic chemists in their testimony. Next, participants will work to identify equivalent terms in Spanish before putting their new knowledge into action through a simultaneous interpreting exercise involving direct examination of a forensic chemist, which will be thoroughly evaluated.



**Connecting to Care Patient Guide** *by Jessica Diaz, CHI™*

The term Patient Guide™ was coined and copyrighted by the Cross Cultural Healthcare Program and defines a professionally trained individual such as a medical interpreter, community health worker, patient navigator or other bilingual staff, who connect patients to medical care and support services by providing system education and guidance in a health care system. The Patient Guide™ builds on the work of patient navigators and medical interpreters inside health care facilities. They are a source of support and consistency amidst numerous appointments, diagnostic procedures, and primary or specialty care providers.

As trusted members of the community, Patient Guides provide language support services, culture brokering, system education and guidance to patients who need it the most such as patients with limited English proficiency and native English speakers with low literacy and low health literacy. From initial diagnostic procedures to specialist consultations and treatment, the Patient Guide connects the patient to medical appointments and support services. Providing additional information and explanations, the Patient Guide fills potential knowledge gaps that limit the patient’s ability to effectively access and understand their medical care. ©CCHCP 2016



**Construction Essentials for Interpreters** *by Rachel Albin*

Do you get nervous when you realize you’re interpreting for a “chirroquero” (sheet rocker), “rufero” (roofer) or other construction worker because you’re not sure you’ll understand what he says about his work? It’s up to us as community, medical and legal interpreters to fill in the blanks if we don’t personally have construction experience (this presenter doesn’t). Otherwise, crucial information could be lost, hurting workers in interpreted settings including meetings with company bosses, medical exams, administrative hearings and depositions. Because understanding is the first step to rendering an accurate interpretation, the presenter has made an effort to educate herself on the basics of this industry. In this session, she’ll share a general introduction to common construction jobs, providing attendees a starting point for anticipating and thinking through potentially challenging terminology. The session will be presented in English and focus primarily on concepts, not suggested translations. Interpreters of all languages are welcome.



**Federal from State... Interpreting in Federal Court for LOTS and Non-Federally-Certified Interpreters** *by Angela Chenus*

Who hires you? Who pays you? What is different about interpretation?

As cases concerning Languages Other Than Spanish grow significantly in our federal courts, interpreters who may be certified with the NSCS or NAJIT, but not federally, are being called upon in greater numbers to work in the federal system; by federal public defenders, prosecutors, courts and federal investigators. When an interpreter accepts an assignment to interpret in Federal Court for the first time, it may feel like just another court assignment. Upon arrival and when preparing to invoice, the differences may be greater than anticipated. Be prepared for the new opportunities opening up in the federal system for interpreters.

Workshop proposal:

- 1) A brief overview of the types of federal court and cases tried by the United States Federal Judiciary. Explore structure (why is there a podium and where do I stand?), proceedings, principles and expectations of the interpreter in federal court or out on an investigation with a federal agent.
- 2) How does one get paid and the pitfalls to avoid when billing
- 3) Glossary-building will make up a part of the workshop. You will not be caught by surprise when you need to interpret; “Federal Sentencing Guidelines” during a phone interview for the first time. A resource guide full of online and other sources of information will be provided.

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### **If It’s On the Internet, It Must Be True** by *Rachel Albin*

Sometimes tried and true dictionaries don’t have the word we’re looking for or they give several options without context, leaving us perplexed. Don’t be ashamed of looking for terminology online – just be clever about it! The presenter will share tips and strategies for making use of online resources and search engines to find concepts in-context, confirm hunches and give yourself doses of immersion in your non-English language even while living in the US. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own devices to perform searches during class. The presenter will share some of her own searches to find Spanish equivalents of English terms, but the skills taught are language-neutral. Interpreters of all languages welcome.

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### **Mexican Spanish for the Modern Interpreter** by *Americo Maldonado*

Have you ever heard “fue una llamarada de petate” or “se comieron la torta antes del recreo?” Do these expressions sound foreign to you in the Spanish language? Most Latino non-English-speaking immigrants in the United States are of Mexican descent. Join and learn examples of dozens of terms, colloquialisms, and expressions used by Mexican-Spanish speakers that are frequently brought up during interpretation and translation assignments every day in different fields. Discuss and share with other classmates ways to interpret them into the English language according to your specific interpreting and translating background.

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### **Providing Providers Insights into Interpreting** by *Katherine Langan, Ph.D., CHI™, CMI-Spanish*

All interpreters learn how to introduce themselves to patients and providers in order to describe their function and their purpose. It’s often more difficult to get the provider’s attention than it is the patient’s. This presentation looks beyond the introduction to the rationale for our standards of practice and ethics. This is based on many years of explaining interpreting to providers in brief moments in hallways outside of exam rooms, as an invited speaker at professional meetings for providers and in academic setting for providers. In this workshop we will:

- Think about what many providers understand about interpreting
- Relate interpreting to other healthcare professions
- Share techniques and materials which have been useful to me
- Practice what may be done in short encounters

The goal is to provide a framework and resources to share with providers so they can have a better understanding of interpreters as professionals. This topic relates to the tenet of *Professionalism* in the National Code of Ethics and National Standards of Practice of Practice. As professionals, we should be able to not only perform professionally, but also to explain the profession in a professional manner.

While the focus will be on collaborative situations (healthcare, education) there will be applications for court and other confrontational situations.

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**Court Interpreting: Resolving Ethical Dilemmas** by *Piet Koene*

During this session, participants will discuss various ethical dilemmas that the presenter has faced during recent years while interpreting in court, primarily concerning situations in which there were possible conflicts of interest. What should be done as per the Iowa Code of Professional Conduct for Court Interpreters and Translators? What are the proper steps to take? How can interpreters justify their actions and decisions? What sections and tenets of the Code are applicable for each situation? As we walk through the various scenarios and attempt to resolve them, we will all become better prepared for the future, when decisions many times need to be made after only mere moments of reflection.

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**There is More to a Saying Than Words** by *Janet Bonet*

This session is designed to stimulate out-of-the-box thinking about sayings translators and interpreters come across. Too often, we think that all we need do is simply translate the words, but instead, we need to be willing and able to understand their deeper meanings in order to convey them properly. Speakers and writers often misuse sayings and that presents especially interesting challenges. Cultural and historical contexts, and chronologically progressive application of these often obtuse or oblique expressions are important clues to their deeper meaning.

We will also look at the formulaic styles of expressing them in English and Spanish. Bring a good bilingual dictionary, your favorite reference book on the topic, and a list of examples we can work on. Perhaps you have a translation that you are particularly pleased with and would like to share it! I will bring my collection of references, to give you ideas for sources.

I prefer we exercise our minds on resolving the translation stumbling blocks sayings present, therefore, I ask that you bring paper and pen, rather than using a computer for the exercise (you are welcome to use computers for notes). We will exercise our brain, oil the wheels of our imagination, and stretch the muscles of our research skills by not depending on the computer generated ambiguous, literal, or 'good enough' translation. We could talk and laugh about this topic until the cows come home and yet not understand them lock, stock, and barrel.

The session will combine lecture, direct practice, and discussion on cracking these tough nuts. Let's laugh and learn!

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**Upgrade Your Professional Medical Vocabulary** (Part I & Part II) by *Wyman Borts, Jr., CMI-Spanish*

Advanced Terminology Workshop for Spanish Medical Translators and Interpreters.  
If we as language professionals don't eagerly persist to fine-tune our words—while consulting credible sources endorsed by physicians and the finest in our craft—we stagnate and risk lagging behind the language industry standards held by those who are the best at what they do.

The use of "incorrect" terms has been widely diffused in common usage in the medical field, not excluding terms we assume are routine and mundane. Nevertheless, just as the legal field requires language precision, physicians and other medical professionals must be precise in their use of words, and a translator must be no less

meticulous. Following his assumption that an exceptional interpreter should seek to equal the rigor of a worthy translator, Wyman routinely aims to carry his attention to detail as a translator over to his interpreting approach. In this two-part workshop, Wyman and participants will consider findings on problematic, dubious, or often poorly-translated or -interpreted terms and concepts. He will chiefly cite his go-to resource, Cosnautas.com, including Fernando A. Navarro's Diccionario de dudas y dificultades de traducción del inglés médico (3.ª edición, versión 3.13; marzo de 2019).

For the benefit of the profession, the goals of this session are to enhance the participant's awareness and comprehension of English and Spanish medical language, and thus become more decisive, specific, confident, and skilled in his or her practice.

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### Presenters' Bios

**Americo Maldonado** was born and raised in Mexico. He was brought up in a family of journalists, later becoming one. His father, a sempiternal traveling writer, and his mother, a U.S.-trained nurse, instilled in him an interest and passion for different cultures, travel, and languages, making every possible effort to raise him bilingual. In 1992, during the third year of his Electronics Engineering program, he was invited to Spain by an American organization as an interpreter at the Barcelona Olympics. In 1997, after four years in the engineering program and two years in a media-communications program, Americo left Mexico to go to Japan, where he not only learned Japanese but also met his Iowa-native wife Kathy. Almost four years later in 2001, Americo moved to the North Iowa area where he worked for the Mason City Globe Gazette and started interpreting for the Iowa Courts, the Public Defender's Office, and various law enforcement agencies. In 2005 about two years of regular free-lancing, Americo decided to become a full-time court interpreter, as well as an IITA member. In 2010 he obtained his certification as a Court Interpreter.

**Angela Chenus** is U.S. born and raised, but grew to adulthood in France. She holds an MA in translation from the Universite de Toulouse, France, and a BA in translation in Spanish and French. She has spent many years translating and interpreting; most recently, eight years as a medical and legal interpreter in the Midwest. She is a certified court interpreter in French/English. Her background in education; teaching ESL in Europe, as well as a desire to share with colleagues, is what inspires her to train and present on interpreting topics, ranging from technique to situational logistics, ethics and beyond.

**Ernest Niño-Murcia** is a freelance legal interpreter and translator based in Des Moines, Iowa. He graduated from Brown University with a B.A. in Anthro-Linguistics. As a state and federally-certified court interpreter, he has interpreted legal proceedings and prepared translations, transcriptions and expert witness reports/testimony for clients in the private and public sectors. Outside of court, he has interpreted for public figures such as House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Governor George Pataki and Senator Bernie Sanders. He has presented to groups of attorneys, judges and court reporters about court interpreter issues. Additionally, Ernest is a former member of the NAJIT Board of Directors and past chair of the Bench and Bar Committee.

**Janet Bonet**, co-founder of the Nebraska Association for Translators & Interpreters (NATI) and multi-term NATI President and Board Member, was the first Nebraska State Court Certified Interpreter. She is currently a freelance interpreter/translator in her business, Protrans. As a community activist who believes in the abilities of each of us to work toward a stronger profession and a world where language is not allowed to be a barrier to social justice she believes interpreters and translators MUST be the best they can be at their work. Janet has a BA in Anthropology & Spanish from the University of the Americas (Cholula, Puebla, Mexico), and completed the program of study for the MA in Racial and Ethnic Relations at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In addition to her work in T&I, she is now pursuing her dream of becoming a published author. Please feel free to contact her via email.

**Jessica Diaz**, CHI™. For the past four years Jessica has worked as an interpreter for Sioux Center Health Hospital in Sioux Center Iowa, and for the last seven years as a Bilingual Family Health Advocate with Community Health Partners in Orange City Iowa. Previous to her work in the public health field Jessica worked as an ELL teacher in

the Sioux Center Community School District for three years. This past December Jessica accepted a full time position with Sioux Center Health and now works as the Cultural Services Coordinator at Sioux Center Health. Jessica is a Certified Healthcare Interpreter as well as a Certified Patient Guide™. In addition to these certifications Jessica is a certified trainer for the Cross Cultural Healthcare Program's 40 Hour Medical Interpreter Training Bridging the Gap as well as a certified trainer for their 24 Hour Connecting to Care Patient Guide Training.

**Katherine Langan** is a sociolinguist who has worked as a full time or occasional translator/interpreter since 1979. She earned her Ph.D. and M.S. at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She received her training in translation through SIL and has worked with various combinations of Indo-European and Mayan languages including English, Spanish, Poqomam, K'iche', Kaqchikel, Koiné Greek and French, working with religious, technical, cultural, medical, legal, and commercial documents. She has been involved in the training of interpreters and translators both in the US and Guatemala since 1979. She has interpreted in legal, educational and medical contexts in both the U.S. and Guatemala and has also done conference interpreting. As an active member of the National Council of Interpreters in Health Care she is a long term member of the Standards and Training Committee coordinating the work of the Home for Trainers and co-chairing the Languages of Limited Diffusion Work Group and the National Standards of Practice for Healthcare Interpreters Work Group. She has researched and developed specialized training for interpreters working in speech language therapy contexts. She looks for opportunities to provide educational programs from introductory courses to specialized topics for interpreters and consumers. She is currently learning German for the fun of it.

**Piet J. Koene** is a state-certified court interpreter in Iowa since 2006, was born and raised in Canada. He earned his B.A. from Calvin College (Grand Rapids, MI) and his Master of Arts degree in history with a concentration in Latin American studies from the University of Toronto. After living and working in Honduras, he has taught in Northwestern College's (Orange City, IA) Modern Foreign Languages department since 2000. In 2009 he earned a Master of Arts degree in translation and interpretation, as well as professional certifications in both areas, at the Monterey (California) Institute of International Studies. In 2016 he also attained his medical interpreting certification through NBCMI. Currently, he continues to work as a freelance interpreter and translator, serves on IITA's Board of Directors, teaches at Northwestern College where he is also the director of NWC's B.A. in Translation and Interpretation Program and Chair of the Modern Foreign Languages Department, and teaches for the Masters of Conference Interpreting program at Glendon College of York University in Toronto, Canada.

**Rachel Albin's** career as an interpreter took off in Iowa, in no small part thanks to IITA! After exploring the profession at IITA conferences and working on skills-building, Rachel passed state court certification for Spanish in May 2015 and began freelancing full time around the state that summer. Since November 2018 she has been a staff interpreter at Hennepin County District Court in Minneapolis.

**Wyman Borts, Jr.,** CMI-Spanish is a self-employed language services provider at WyGlot, LLC. Certified as a Medical Interpreter since 2012, he is also a qualified translator, transcriptionist, and training facilitator. He has served as professional interpreter in over 8,000 medical encounters, and he has professionally translated over 300 documents/200,000 words (including editing and collaboration), most of them categorized within the specialism of medicine and health care. He is an Active Member of IITA (former Director on the Board), and a member of ATA, MICATA, NATI, and IMIA. He is a graduate of the DMACC ITR program, and is a professional member and user at ProZ.com, Success by Rx, and Cosnautas.