Barbara Gonzalez Research Statement

In the near future, my research will focus on the “person” level of the bioecological theory of human development (Bronfenbrenner, 1976/1996), assessing the individual determinants of behaviors that may be relevant in the broad field of Health Psychology.

One particular area of interest is the relationship between fatigue and psychological aspects; another area of interest is the link between pain and emotional aspects, through assessment of psychophysiological aspects involved in pain experience. Specifically, the relation between attachment and pain perception (how attachment styles relate to the psychophysiological response to aversive stimulus) and differences between acute/chronic and medically explained/medically unexplained pain, to enable future intervention. Another goal would be the development of virtual reality scenarios centered in relevant aspects of daily life and their pain experience, that contribute to higher quality of life and well being of chronic pain patients, through stimulation of positive emotions.

As researcher, I believe that the merge of psychological and neuropsychological paradigms with technology may be very useful in dealing with the physical and psychological aspects involved in Health Psychology, enabling a full understanding of the processes.