

Oral Presenters

(alphabetically by last name)



Sharon Alvarado – Lead Clinical Instructor, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

“The Impact of Discovering Health Careers on Urban Youth”

Sharon is a First Generation student, who is currently a Junior at UIC studying Sociology and Political Science with a minor in Psychology. Sharon has over 3 years of experience working with disadvantaged and underrepresented youth in urban and rural settings. From 2017-2019, she has served as Program Coordinator for CHAMPIONS NETWork, a multidisciplinary high school health career exposure and health advocacy pipeline program housed at the UIC Department of Emergency Medicine in Chicago, IL. Sharon has continuously been involved in helping underserved youth to engage in health based programs to spark their interest and expose them to various careers in health care. As a first generation student, Sharon has continuously work to help students who are first-gen to guide them in the process of applications and financial matters. Sharon aspires to hopefully pursue to get an MD or a JD and continue the work with an MSW.



Erika Arias – Medical Student, Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine; Education and Research Committee, MOLA

“Medical Student-led Quality Improvement of Linguistic Educational Opportunities at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine”

About the Presenter: See full bio under “Moderators”



Angélica Cabrera – Graduate Student, University of Illinois at Chicago; PrimeCare Community Health

“Childhood Vaccinations: A Quality Improvement Project for Latino Populations at PrimeCare Community Health

Angélica Cabrera is currently a second-year graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Master of Public Health program concentrating in Maternal and Child Health. She currently works as the graduate assistant at UIC’s College of Medicine Hispanic Center of Excellence. She is also currently a quality improvement intern at PrimeCare Community Health where she was able to conduct this quality improvement project. Angélica is passionate about childhood and adolescent health, especially within the Latinx population. She hopes to attend medical school after completing graduate school to become a pediatrician. Angélica hopes to create impact for children through her academic and professional experience by serving the low-income, Latinx population during her future career.



Samuel Carbanaru – Medical Student, Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine

“Minorities in Live Donor Kidney Transplantation: Where do we stand?”

Samuel Carbanaru grew up in Venezuela and at the age of 14 he moved to Miami due to rising insecurity and political instability. Samuel attended the University of Florida, where he received a degree in Biochemistry in 2018. He has always been passionate about increasing the Hispanic participation in the sciences. In college, Samuel founded and led an initiative called The Latin STEM Fair, where they sought to inspire young Latino students through interactive science experiments and educate the public on how to get involved in this field. Samuel is currently a second-year medical student at Feinberg School of Medicine. He is involved with research that focuses on health disparities and kidney transplantation with Dr. Juan Carlos Caicedo, and with prostate cancer research with Dr. Adam Murphy. In addition, Samuel is the co-president of Northwestern’s Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) chapter.



Andrea Cruz – Undergraduate Student, University of Illinois, Chicago; Research Intern, Northwestern Univ. Feinberg School of Med.

“eHealth Interventions Reduce Cancer-Related Symptom Burden in Hispanic Breast Cancer Survivors”

Andrea Cruz is an undergraduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, pursuing a BA in Neuroscience. Her future goals include pursuing a medical degree and working towards eliminating health disparities experienced by under-served minorities. She is a research intern in the Department of Medical Social Sciences at the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. Currently, she assists with multiple studies conducted by Dr. Betina Yáñez that focus on Hispanic breast cancer patients. Dr. Yáñez, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Social Sciences, combines behavioral and precision medicine in her research to develop feasible patient-centered precision interventions.



María Lorena Espinosa – Medical Student, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

“Dermatologic Disparities: Essential Considerations in Patient Care”

María L. Espinosa is a 3rd year medical student at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. She was born in Puebla, Mexico and grew up in Columbus, OH where she attended The Ohio State University and majored in Neuroscience. Prior to medical school she participated in the Pritzker School of Medicine Experience in Research Program (PSOMER), and has been actively involved in the recruitment of underrepresented minority students into medical school by volunteering with various organizations and promoting pipeline programs. She volunteers at a free clinic with primarily Spanish speakers, traveled to Peru with CerviCusco to promote cervical cancer screening, and served as the co-president of the Latino Medical Student Association. She plans on becoming a dermatologist with a focus on ethnic skin and caring for Spanish-speakers, and will be participating in a year-long research fellowship in the Northwestern Department of Dermatology starting July 2019.



Mariel Juanita Galván – Undergraduate Student, University of Illinois Urbana; Department of Anthropology College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“The impact of the imposter phenomenon on health and productivity in female scientists”

Mariel Galván is a recipient of the Medical Organization of Latino Advancement 2019 Scholarship. She is a rising fourth-year undergraduate obtaining her Bachelor of Science in Integrative Biology with a minor in African American Studies on a pre-medical track at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. Mariel’s academic interests include studying gender and racial disparities in medicine, public school systems, and workplaces. As a Black-Latina woman in STEM, her personal experiences have fueled her curiosities regarding inequities for women of color in science. In pursuing a lab, Mariel ensured that the work she undertook would either address disparity in women’s or minority health. She began her lab work under Dr. Clancy’s Laboratory for Evolutionary Endocrinology in September of 2018, specifically working with Dr. Michelle Rodrigues on their research of stress and workplace experiences of women scientists.



Elizabeth García - Medical Student, University of Illinois College of Medicine

“Building the Pipeline: Review of Best Practices Proven to Develop and Sustain a Mentorship Program”

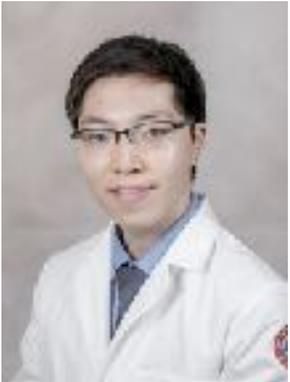
Elizabeth Garcia, a first-generation 3rd year medical student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, strives to create inspirational opportunities for Latinx minority students aspiring to pursue a career in healthcare. Life hardships and being the first in her family to navigate a career in higher education, she knows the importance of reliable, encouraging, and advocating mentors. With the help of MOLA leaders, Elizabeth hopes to further develop the MOLA Mentorship Program so that other Latinx students can fearlessly become leaders in healthcare and work against the disparities affecting their community.



Karla Daniela Guerrero, MD – University of Chicago Hospitals

“LGBTQ Healthcare Training in Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Programs”

Karla Daniela Guerrero, MD is a 4th year OBGYN resident at the University of Chicago. She is a first generation American with parents who immigrated to the United States during the 1980s from El Salvador due to the civil war. Dr. Guerrero attended a Californian public high school and studied Biology at the University of San Francisco. While attending university, she cultivated her experiences by spending a summer in South Africa where she worked with street children, and another summer in Nicaragua working with the Foundation of Sustainable Development at a women and children’s clinic. Post university, Dr. Guerrero spent two years in Fukushima, Japan working as an English teacher in the Japanese Exchange Teaching program where she also experienced the trifecta earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear power plant disasters of 2011. Dr. Guerrero’s experiences and upbringings have led her to become the physician she is today.



Remy Lee – Medical Student, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine

“Burnout and Work-Life Balance Amongst Latino Medical Students”

Remy is a second-year medical student at UIC. He graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in statistics. Outside of school, Remy enjoys reading, running, and playing the piano.



Itzel López-Hinojosa – Medical Student, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine; Medical Student Committee Co-Chair, MOLA

“Musculoskeletal Medical Spanish Curriculum”

Itzel López Hinojosa is a second year medical student at Pritzker School of Medicine. She graduated with a double major in Biochemistry and American Culture Studies from Washington University in St. Louis in 2017. Before coming to medical school, she was the founder and president of MedX, an organization that tackled health disparities in St Louis through educational events, advocacy and community service. During her gap year, she returned to her alma mater, the Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora, Illinois as a Residential Counselor. She is a Albert Schweitzer Fellow developing a mentorship curriculum in Holy Cross Parish in Back of the Yards. Her first year she served as the Pritzker LMSA Chapter Co-President. She is now co-chair of MOLA’s Medical Student Committee.



Bryan Rangel-Álvarez – Medical Student, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University

“MiMentor Medical School Ready: A Statewide Enrichment Program to Increase the Number of Latino Medical Students in California”

Bryan Rangel-Alvarez received a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology from the University of California, Merced. Bryan last worked for the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC), a statewide organization with an emphasis on addressing Latino health inequities through which health policy and public health tactics are used to initiate and advocate for policies that aid in building healthier communities. Currently, he attends Michigan State University College of Human Medicine as an incoming second-year medical student in the Medical Partners in Public Health certificate program. Bryan also holds a leadership position in his local LMSA/LANAMA Chapter.



Ana Reyes – Medical Student, Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine; Erie Family Health Centers

“Moving FQHCs toward value-based care: Risk stratification of patients receiving pregnancy care at Erie Family Health Centers”

Ana Reyes is a second year medical student at Northwestern University. She is also pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Health with an interest in health services research and population health. She currently serves as the Community Engagement Chair for Northwestern’s chapter of LMSA and is on the board of Keep Your Heart Healthy, a student-run initiative that seeks to lower death rates from cardiovascular disease by providing free blood pressure screening and lifestyle counseling. While working at the Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative, she worked to increase minority engagement in research by disseminating research findings to community members. Most recently, she has worked with Erie Family Health Centers to help bring value-based care to their patients.



Shojanny María Salazar Ponce, MD – Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador; Co-chair, International Medical Graduate Committee, MOLA

“Educational Needs and Preferences Assessment of Latino Physicians and Medical Trainees: An Exploratory Survey Study to Complement the MOLA Mentorship Program” (MOLA Summer Internship Project; Project Mentor: Isabel Castrejón, MD, PhD)

“Hispanic Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis Have Greater Discordance between Patient and Physician Global Estimates than Other Ethnic Groups: A Cross-sectional Study from Routine Care”

Dr. Shojanny Salazar was born in Ibarra, Ecuador and grew up in Quito, Ecuador. She is a first-year master’s degree in Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture student at Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, Chicago, Illinois. She is an International Medical Graduate from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador. Her current field placement is a research volunteer at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Also, she is a Co-chair of the International Medical Graduate (IMG) Committee at Medical Organization for Latino Advancement (MOLA). Her current research interests include Latino health disparities, women in medicine, Latino IMG career development, and global health.



Elisabeth Stark – Medical Student, Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine

“The association between maternal race and ethnicity and risk factors for primary cesarean delivery in nulliparous women?”

Elisabeth Stark is a fourth-year medical student at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She is interested in health disparities, public and global health, and women's healthcare access, and she plans to apply for the 2020 Match in Obstetrics & Gynecology.



Ravi Tyagi – Program Manager, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine

“Empowering Youth to Become Community Health Advocates: The CHAMPIONS NETWork After-School Club Model”

Ravi is a second year medical student at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He graduated from Saint Louis University with a degree in Biomedical Engineering with an emphasis on tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. His academic interests include medical innovation and public health education. He has been with the UIC Champions after School Club for the past year and thoroughly enjoys working with high school students to promote health advocacy and college readiness.



Noé Vázquez – Graduate Student, Roosevelt University

“Colon Cancer Screening Among Hispanic Men”

Noé Vázquez is a recent graduate from Roosevelt University where he major in Psychology with a concentration in Neuroscience and a minor in Biology. Noé is anxious to be admitted into the Medical Science Training Program and ultimately earn an MD/PhD degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Despite the daunting challenges that he faces as an undocumented student, he has managed to develop extensive experience in exploring the role of nutrition in exacerbating health disparities in immigrant communities. He is also a standardized patient helping to train medical students in use of Spanish in medical settings, and has volunteered countless hours as MOLA's professional photographer. In the future, as a researcher and health care provider, he hopes to use clinical lab work and academic knowledge to improve the overall health of Latino communities. On his downtime, Noé enjoys playing the drums and capturing moments with his camera.