

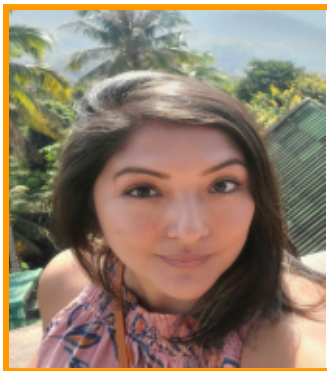
## **EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICER CANDIDATES**



**Arielle Guzmán, MPH**  
**Recording Secretary Candidate**

Currently accountable as a Clinical Research Coordinator in the Cancer Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Arielle leads the coordinating of multiple Biorepository Resource protocols in the Cancer Center. She also assists on several studies and qualitative improvement projects that aim to address lung cancer disparities and improve outcomes. Prior to working at UIC, Arielle was a Research Assistant at Mount Sinai Hospital. There, she evaluated the effect of the Affordable Care Act on breast cancer outcomes. She received her master's degree in public health at Loyola University Chicago, where she concentrated in Epidemiology.

Arielle serves the Medical Organization for Latino Advancement (MOLA) as the Recording Secretary of the executive committee and a co-chair of the Education and Research committee. She also co-administrates the MOLA Scholars program, where she assists scholars with the development and dissemination of their research projects.



**Gabriela Saldaña**  
**Treasurer Candidate**

Having proudly served as a Board Member, Gabriela Saldaña has great interest in continuing her contributions to MOLA by running for re-election for a Board of Director position. Ms. Saldaña has served as a Board Member with honor and appreciation of the passion, energy, and excitement of the young organization that is MOLA, and understands that there is much to accomplish in these upcoming years. She looks forward to continuing her contribution to MOLA's mission of laying the foundation and planting the seeds for future generations that will have a positive impact on the lives of future members and the Hispanic/Latino community at large. Ms. Saldaña believes that with her experience and relationships with Latinx members of the nonmedical community, she can play an important role bringing in community resources and information that can contribute to the continued success and advancement of MOLA.

## **MOLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES**

### **Reelections:**



#### **Janeth Cristina Castaño, MD Board of Directors Position**

Dr. Castaño is a self-motivated and progress-driven International Medical Graduate from Colombia, who is currently working as a Clinical Research Technician at Indiana University School of Medicine and as Medical Assistant at Indiana University Health. She has an extensive background in the Healthcare industry in the United States as well as in Colombia, where has served in the clinical field, and has held leadership positions in healthcare management, public health, and clinical research. Her motor is to work with and for people, and her goal is to become a resource of innovation, care, and education for the Latinx community, not only in the State of Indiana, but all over the US.

She is pursuing a unique path as her dream is to become a licensed Physician in the US. This has allowed her to become a driving force to encourage fellow International Medical Graduates, that there aren't barriers high enough when the determination is set and the unachievable is worked on every day. She poses a long-standing record of initiative and persistence that has enabled her to develop and execute strategies along her career and in her current roles in MOLA, which she has been a part of for the past 3 years. She has learned and grown professionally as part of the BoD since 2019 and as Co-chair of the IHG committee since 2020.

MOLA for her means community, hope, to help one another, and it has given her the energy to never give up. She has met some of the most impactful people in her path in the US through MOLA and truly believes it's been a guide during the most emotionally difficult times of the past 3 years. Due to this, she wants to continue contributing to this organization, helping others to increase their professional development to serve the Latinx community in the US.



**Alicia Olave Pichon, MD**  
**Board of Directors Position**

Alicia is originally from Peru and she is the founder of the American Association of Peruvian Physicians. She completed her training in pediatrics at the Puerto Rico Women and Children's Hospital and is currently completing the last year of training in pediatric gastroenterology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. She has a great passion for seeking opportunities to increase the representation of Latinos in the health workforce that reflects the diversity of our communities. While at UIC as a graduate student at the School of Public Health, Alicia became more sensitive and aware of health disparities in the Latino community and the barriers to becoming a physician, which played a key role in her decision to become a board of MOLA and a mentor in MOLA-MRF Scholar Program. She looks forward to continuing to be part of the board of directors and collaborating to support the next generation of Latino physicians.

**New Candidates:**



**Emma Olivera, MD**  
**Board of Directors Position**

Dr. Emma Olivera is a proud native of the city of Chicago. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) with two Bachelor degrees: Science (Biological Sciences) and Arts (Latin American and Latino Studies). She completed her medical school education at UIC College of Medicine – Rockford campus. She has focused much of her activities on helping the medically underserved community by taking on various leadership roles.

Professionally, Dr. Olivera graduated from pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital of Michigan (affiliated with Wayne State University) in Detroit, Michigan. She is currently working as a general pediatrician in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. It is here where she aspires to advocate for children and continue to mentor the next generation of leaders in medicine as Assistant Clinical Professor for her alma mater, UIC-COM. Dr. Oliver also serves as the Chicago Chapter Co-Chair for the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) and as a National Physician Advisor for the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA).



**Erik Tarula, MD**

**Board of Directors Position**

Erick Tarula is a second generation Mexican American from the Los Angeles area. He was the first in his family to attend college and graduated in 2009 from the Charles R Drew/ UCLA medical school program, a program designed to improve the health of historically marginalized communities. He completed training in Neurology at Beth Israel Deaconess in Boston and fellowship training in Neurocritical Care at RUSH in Chicago. Currently he sits as the assistant professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the University of Wisconsin Madison. Having a passion for medical education and holding various roles related to education at the medical school including his most recent role as the Equity and Inclusion curriculum director. He's also served on the admissions board, the student promotion committee and the university sponsored BEAM mentoring program, a program designed to bring evidence-based mentoring to underrepresented students to UW medical students. As one of the founding members of MOLA Wisconsin, he is driven by a strong desire to enhance our newest chapter's impact.



**Geovani Barraza, MBA, CPA**

**Board of Directors Position**

Geovani's professional career has allowed him the opportunity to work in various financial roles including forecasting, budgeting, auditing, and accounting to name a few. He has experience in leading organizations through audits performed by internal auditors as well as external audits performed by both public accounting firms and U.S. Government entities. Additionally, he's led and assisted in the development of 5-Year Long-Range Business Plans in the For-Profit Sector. He received his bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana in 1994 and my CPA License in the State of Illinois in 2000. Additionally, he completed an MBA at DePaul University – Kellstadt Graduate School of Business in April 2021.

His goal is to bring good judgment, logic, curiosity, commitment to accountability to foster the long-term financial stability of Chicago MOLA and a passion to continuously support our Latino/a/x Community in all aspects.





**Javier Macías**  
**Board of Directors Position**

Javier has been employed by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for more than 10 years. He has focused on promoting LLSs minority-focused initiatives and reducing disparities in blood cancer patient outcomes. In his current position as a national representative, his primary objective has been to collaborate with physicians and health professionals to implement educational initiatives for the Hispanic community. This includes Blood Cancer Education Workshops, National Online Educational Programs, Facebook Live Series, Webinars, and "Cancer 101" Training Workshops for community health workers and promoters. Javier is currently the host of 'Cafecito con LLS,' a new concept that aims to

reach the Latino community with stories from patients, survivors, community advocates, and cancer experts.

Due to Javier's bicultural and bilingual background, as well as his steadfast dedication to his community, he has been able to reach a significant number of blood cancer patients across the nation through live and virtual educational programs in collaboration with cancer centers, community clinics, Mexican consulates, Ventanillas de Salud, and community organizations.



**Paulina Guzmán, MA**  
**Board of Directors Position**

Paulina Guzmán is a native Chicagovan and proud of her rich Mexican roots. She completed her Master's in Education with a focus on Higher Education and Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University in 2014. She completed her undergraduate studies at National Louis University in Chicago with a major in Business and Health Leadership. She has gained extensive knowledge of the health barriers Latinos and other underrepresented populations face through her work in healthcare and personal experiences. These experiences

were Paulina's driving force to make an impact in healthcare and work with pathway programs, such as the Hispanic Center of Excellence's (HCOE) Medicina Scholars and the Latino Health Science Enrichment Program (LaHSEP) to increase the number of Latina/o/e physicians and health professionals in Illinois and throughout the U.S. Paulina looks forward to contributing to MOLA's success in advancing Latinas/os/e in medicine and health professions.



**Willaim J Sierraalta, MD**  
**Board of Directors Position**

Dr. Willaim Sierraalta is a dedicated and compassionate healthcare professional with a passion for serving the community. Born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Dr. Sierraalta has always been driven by a desire to make a positive impact on people's lives through medicine. He began his journey in the field of healthcare by earning his MD degree from the University of Zulia School of Medicine in Venezuela. He embarked on his residency in Anesthesiology at John H Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois, where he currently serves as a PGY-5 Anesthesiology Resident. His dedication to patient care and medical research is evident

through his involvement in various clinical and research positions.

With fluency in both English and Spanish, Dr. Sierraalta is dedicated to improving healthcare, advocating for patients, and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those he serves. His journey in medicine exemplifies his dedication to the well-being of individuals and communities. As part of MOLA, Dr. Sierraalta looks to acquire the necessary tools to excel in his commitment to decrease the distance between Latinx doctors and patients. And make the system understand that we have a lot to give to this amazing country called the United States.