



VII MOLA LATINX 2023  
HEALTH SYMPOSIUM  
IV MEDICAL SPANISH SUMMIT

**Bridging the Gap Through Connections**  
***Cerrando la brecha a través de conexiones***

**MEET SATURDAY'S SPEAKERS,  
PRESENTERS & MODERATORS'S  
SPEAKERS, PRESENTERS &  
MODERATORS**

**CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:**

- **Identify** issues and barriers experienced by our Latinx community that lead to gaps in both health equity and the overall healthcare experience.
- **Propose** strategies in healthcare practice that pursue equity through innovations in medicine and education for health professionals.
- **Utilize** the unique skills, experiences, and assets of Latinx communities, such as multilingualism, cultural diversity, protective health behaviors, and connectedness, to overcome structural barriers and improve Latinx health outcomes, effectively bridging the gap.
- **Apply** strategies to increase the representation of Latinx individuals in healthcare, research, and education careers through connections and collaboration that improve health outcomes for the Latinx population

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## **Breakfast Plenary: Understanding the International Medical Graduate Experience in the United States**

Moderated by: [Janeth Cristina Castano](#)



Janeth C. Castano, MD MHA, serves as a GI/Hepatology Clinical Research Technician at Indiana University School of Medicine, and a Medical Assistant at Indiana University Health (West Lafayette – Pediatrics). She is an International Medical Graduate from Universidad de Antioquia in Colombia, who has served in many Leadership roles in her country, as Medical Director of recognized Institutions, and Health Commissioner for her city for a 3 year period, prior to her arrival to the US. Here, She has held

management roles in FQHA for the Pediatrics and Women’s Health Department, as well as being part of Board of Directors of DNOVA in Indianapolis. Currently, she is the Education and Research Committee Co-Chair for National Association of Latino Healthcare Executives NALHE Indiana Chapter, and has been a part of the IU School of Medicine Equity and Inclusion Committee since 2022. With MOLA, Janeth has been a part of the Board of Directors since 2019, and she also serves as Co-Chair for the International Health Graduate Committee.

[Alicia Olave-Pichon, MD, MPH](#)



Dr. Alicia Olave-Pichon is a Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellow at the University of Rochester Medical Center, a member of the board of directors of MOLA, and the founder of the American Association of Peruvian Physicians (AAPP). She received her medical training at Universidad Católica de Santa María in Peru and her pediatric residency at the Puerto Rico Women and Children's Hospital, where she received the Resident Research

Award. Dr. Olave-Pichon completed her master of public health at the University of Illinois at Chicago and has been recognized for her advocacy and leadership work, including the UIC Chancellor's Student Service and Leadership Award and the TUMI USA Award. She currently collaborates with Latino physician advocacy groups and represents Latino physicians in the Diversity and Equity SIG of the NASPGHAN.

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### Evelyn Frias-Toral MD, MSECR, MHA



Evelyn is a Clinical Research Associate Professor and member of the Editorial Council for Universidad Católica Santiago de Guayaquil (UCSG), Ecuador. She is part of the Education and Research Committee from the Ibero-Latin American Section of American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ILAS ASPEN). She is the national coordinator for the Italian - Ecuadorian Scientific Partnership focused on Nutrition in Inflammatory Conditions. She has collaborated with the Ecuadorian Association of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

(ASENPE) as member in the Scientific, Education and Publications Committee, representative before the International Council of the European Society of Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN). She was part of the first ESPEN Early Career Faculty group (2019-2022), and the nutritionDay national coordinator (2017-2021). She was the Chair for the Research Committee from SOLCA Guayaquil Cancer Hospital. She serves as Associate Editor for *Frontiers in Public Health*, *Clinical Nutrition ESPEN* and *Revista de Nutrición Clínica y Metabolismo*. She has authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications.

### Ricardo Correa MD, EdD, FACP, FACE, FAPCR, FACMQ, CMQ



Ricardo Correa, M.D., Ed. D., F.A.C.E., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.M.Q. is a Clinical Professor of Medicine, the Director for Diversity, equity and Inclusion, for mentoring and Belonging and the Director for Longitudinal Curriculum and LLG at The Lerner College of Medicine and the School of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. He is the Program Director for the Endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism fellowship and

the Director for health equity and Inclusive Initiatives at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition he is an associate professor of medicine and the health equity fellowship director for Creighton School of Medicine Phoenix. He is an editor and peer reviewer of

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multiple journals in endocrine, research and medical education. He has more than 100 article published in peer-review journals.

He has been awarded by the Presidential leadership scholarship, SGIM Herbert Nicken award, ASP Eric Nielsen award, Arizona humanitarian award, AACE and Medscape rising star award, NMQF 40 under 40 award among many others.

He serves as medical director volunteer for an underserved clinic in Phoenix and is very involved in promoting URM in medicine. He is part of many medical and educational organization leadership including the NBME, INTEALTH (ECFMG/FAIMER), ACGME, ABMS, among others.

Ricardo is a regional and local FPAC member of LMSA. Additionally, he is co-chair of national chapter committee and member of NHMA board of director.

He is an advocate at local and national level for international medical graduates and serve as the chair of the AMA IMG section.

## Latino Health Symposium Plenary

Moderated by: [Alvyn Hernandez Reyes](#)



Alvyn Hernandez Reyes is a 3rd year medical student attending Rush Medical College. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2021 with a bachelors in Integrative Biology and minor in Psychology. Leadership positions he has held at his time at Rush include the following: President of the Latino Medical Student Association; Co-President of the PM&R Student Interest Group; Peck Peer Advisor. He has current

aspirations to continue his career in medicine in the field of PM&R.

Moderated by: [Carlos Escutia Rosas](#)



Carlos Escutia Rosas is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical student at Rush Medical College. He is born in Hidalgo, Mexico, and moved to Seattle Washington when he was 4 years old. He attended the University of Washington, where he graduated with a degree in Psychology. Throughout his journey so far, he has made it his imperative to integrate his medical school journey to working alongside Chicago's underserved communities, while learning more about his

own identity as a Latinx, first-generation, undocumented medical student. Carlos is passionate about health equity, LGBTQ+ health, and child injury prevention.

[David Ansell, MD](#)



**David Ansell, MD, MPH** is the Michael E Kelly Presidential Professor of Internal Medicine and Senior Vice President/Associate Provost for Community Health Equity at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. He is a 1978 graduate of SUNY Upstate Medical College. He did his medical training at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. He spent 13 years at Cook County as an attending physician

and ultimately was appointed Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at Cook County Hospital. From 1995 to 2005 he was Chairman of Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai Chicago. He was recruited to Rush University Medical Center as its inaugural Chief Medical Officer in 2005, a position he held until 2015. His research and advocacy has been focused

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on eliminating health inequities. In 2011 he published a memoir of his times at County Hospital, *County: Life, Death and Politics at Chicago's Public Hospital*. His latest book is *The Death Gap: How Inequality Kills* was published in 2017.

### Arthur Acevedo



Arthur Acevedo joined the UIC Law School (formerly the John Marshall Law School) in 2007. He teaches Constitutional Law, Income Tax, and Business Corporations. Before joining UIC Law, he taught at the University of Baltimore School of Law and as an adjunct professor at DePaul University. Prior to joining the legal academy, Professor Acevedo worked for McDonald's Corporation, Marbo Inc., Price Waterhouse, and the

Internal Revenue Service.

Professor Acevedo's scholarship focuses on tax law, corporate law, and corporate responsibility. His writings include examining the auditor's role under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act; the failure by the SEC to provide clear accounting standards; the abuse of tax positions by income tax protesters and tax shelter promoters; and the failure of the legal system in promoting corporate responsibility. His most recent scholarship analyzes the interaction of corporate law and constitutional law, and asserts that corporate self-interest benefits when engaging in ethical decision-making. His scholarship examines the appropriation of the United States Constitution by corporate interests and its implications on our social, economic, and political institutions. His writings have been cited by numerous writers including the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Professor Acevedo is a three-time graduate from DePaul University where he received his undergraduate degree with a double major in accounting and finance, his Master of Science in Taxation, and his Juris Doctor degree. Professor Acevedo also successfully passed the CPA exam. He is fluent in Spanish and proficient in Portuguese.

Professor Acevedo is a mentor and faculty advisor to the Latino Law Student Association at UIC Law. He is also the recipient of numerous awards. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Josephinum Academy, a Catholic, college-prep girls' high school empowering inner-city young women with a world-class education and a 100% college placement record.

## Medical Spanish Summit Plenary

Moderated by: Glenn Martínez, PhD, MPH

Pilar Ortega, MD, MGM



Dr. Pilar Ortega is Vice President, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), where she supports efforts to improve retention and well-being for diverse resident and fellow physicians. Dr. Ortega is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in linguistically and culturally appropriate health care.

Dr. Ortega also holds an appointment as Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Illinois Chicago Departments of Emergency Medicine and Medical Education.

Her groundbreaking work in medical Spanish education and assessment has contributed to the recognition of language equity as an area of scholarly inquiry in medicine. She also co-founded two non-profit organizations that foster interprofessional collaborative scholarship focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging: the Medical Organization for Latino Advancement and the National Association of Medical Spanish. To date, she has published four books and more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and has delivered more than 100 national and international presentations.

Dr. Ortega has mentored numerous underrepresented in medicine learners and junior faculty members in advancing their academic scholarship through her roles in the Latino Medical Student Association, the National Hispanic Medical Association, the MedEdPORTAL journal, and the Association of American Medical Colleges Research in Medical Education (RIME) committee.



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Dr. Ortega earned her undergraduate degree in philosophy at the Johns Hopkins University, her Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, her residency in emergency medicine at the University of Chicago, and a master's degree in graphic medicine from the Universidad Internacional de Andalucía.

Twitter: @pilarortegamd

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/pilarortegamd](https://www.linkedin.com/in/pilarortegamd)

### María Magdalena Llabre, PhD



Maria Magdalena Llabre received her PhD in educational research from the University of Florida. She is Professor of Psychology and a Cooper Fellow in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Miami. She is Director of Biobehavioral Statistics at the Behavioral Medicine Research Center, where she has made research contributions to the study of cardiovascular stress reactivity, the effects of war trauma on children, adverse childhood experiences and health, and methodology in behavioral medicine research. She has received numerous awards for excellence in teaching graduate statistics. She is a fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the Division of Health Psychology of the American Psychological Association, and the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, where she received the Lifetime Service Award in 2022. Her current work in the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos tries to understand the Hispanic paradox, the observation that Hispanics in the US have lower rates of cardiovascular disease and mortality, despite having a higher risk factor profile relative to non-Hispanics.

**Breakout Session #1**

***Cancer Track: Towards Health Equity: Cancer Outreach  
Strategies for Latinx and Hispanic Communities***

Moderated by: Francis Bauman, MD



Dr. Francis Guerra-Bauman is a board-certified family medicine physician at Fairfield Memorial Hospital in Fairfield, Illinois. Doctor Guerra-Bauman was born and raised in Panama and attended medical school at Universidad de Panama, where she graduated with honors. She completed an Internal Medicine training and a Hematology fellowship with additional educational experience at University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and Mayo Clinic and practiced as an attending physician for several years in Panama before meeting her husband and relocating to the U.S. Dr. Guerra-Bauman completed her residency at WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital in Pennsylvania. During her residency she served

as the Chief Resident and was appointed by the National Hispanic Medical Association as co-chair of the Family Medicine Council. She also received the "Compassionate Physician Award" to recognize her extraordinary compassion toward patients and their families and is the recipient of the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors award "Family Medicine Resident Award for Advocacy". Dr. Guerra-Bauman participate in educational and research committees with the Medical Organization for Latino Advancement (MOLA), the National Hispanic Medical

Association(NHMA), Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) and community organizations to nationally champion equity, cultural diversity and Latino and Hispanic representation in the United States (US) health care system.

Charoh Ortiz



Rosario "Charoh" Hernandez Ortiz joined the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society as a National Hispanic Outreach Manager earlier this year.

Charoh counts with ample experience in communications, relationship-building, and cancer-specific community outreach, particularly with respect to program development and volunteer engagement. She most recently worked at the American Cancer Society as Development Manager where, among other responsibilities, she executed a portfolio of community-based events through the successful engagement and training of community-based volunteers.

Before her tenure at ACS, Charoh held the position of Lead Community Outreach Associate at AIS Cancer Center/Adventist Health in Bakersfield, California, where she developed, coordinated, and marketed wellness cancer prevention and survivorship programs. She also helped coordinate and roll out the cancer center's media and marketing needs with respect to its outreach to the Hispanic community.

Charoh is also an experienced health educator and a certified Integrative Nutrition Health Coach. She recently became a National Board Certified Health & Wellness Coach (NBC-HWC), a credential granted by the National Board for Health & Wellness Coaching.

Charoh holds a bachelor's in communications and French studies from California State University in Bakersfield and counts with a wealth of experience in media, having worked extensively with Telemundo's local affiliate in Bakersfield and other regional Spanish-language newspapers.

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Jeanette González Santana



Jeanette has over twenty years of experience in nonprofit advocacy, program management and relationship-building. Her more recent experiences include program management of psychosocial support programs for people impacted by cancer and administration at academic medical centers, including health equity initiatives and research affairs. Jeanette has served for over six years as a program consultant for ALAS-Wings, a Latina led organization whose mission is to advocate for and improve the lives of breast cancer survivors through education, mental health programs, and emotional support groups for Hispanic/Latina women and their families.

Gladys Rodriguez, MD



I am a medical oncologist specializing in caring for patients with gastrointestinal cancers at Northwestern Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine. My research interests are in cancer care equity, community engagement, and population science to advance the cancer care of vulnerable patients with GI cancer.

I'm originally from a border town in Texas. I earned my medical degree at Yale University School of Medicine and completed my internal medicine residency at UCSF. I completed my fellowship in Oncology and Hematology at Stanford where I also attained a master's in epidemiology and clinical research degree.

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Carmin Munoz, MS



Carmin Munoz is a second-year medical student at Rush Medical College. She completed her undergraduate at Columbia University and master's in pharmacology at Tulane School of Medicine. Her experiences as a first-generation immigrant motivated her over the years to pursue extracurricular activities that could help dismantle the inequities she saw in her community. For this reason, Carmin's research interest revolves around health disparities and she hopes to

continue developing this interest to advocate for the needs of the Latinx community.

Claudia Téllez



***LGBTQ+ Track: Communicating effectively and safely in  
LGBTQ Health***

Moderated by: Devin Barzallo



Devin Barzallo is a medical student at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He is currently doing a research year at the National Institutes of Health studying the genetics of Tuberous Sclerosis Complex and the manifestations of Human Herpesvirus-8 in patients with HIV. He is co-chairing the LGBTQ+ Task Force for the Medical Organization of Latino Advancement (MOLA). He is applying into Dermatology, and wants to do a HIV fellowship. He is passionate about health equity, and serving the latino and queer communities

Cecilia Teresa Hardacker



Cec Hardacker, MSN, RN, CNL is the Director of Education at Howard Brown's Center for Education, Research and Advocacy. Cec is responsible for disseminating LGBTQ+ best practices to multiple disciplines across the U.S., her favorite is nursing education. In the 12 years Cec has been at Howard Brown, she has contributed to national consortia in LGBTQ+ cultural competency education, conducted bladder health research in SGM populations, has published, co-edited/authored a book on TGD

elders. Her training team provide numerous diverse curricula, including the Health Education About LGBT Elders, or HEALE curriculum, and the CORE Four curriculum. Her team was recently funded 2 million by CDPH to develop a city-wide infrastructure to collect public health surveillance data and received a grant to survey SGM people about bladder

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health. She identifies as a Chicana dyke artist, has been married for 29 years, has 2 pit bulls and a 20 year old cat.

### Ervin Kocjancic, MD



Ervin Kocjancic, M.D, is a full professor of Surgery/Urology at University of Chicago. He is a reconstructive Urologist who specializes in pelvic health, urinary incontinence, and reconstructive urology care for female, male, and transgender patients. He is an expert in Gender Affirmation surgeries.

Dr. Kocjancic has received numerous awards and citations for presentations, research, teaching, and clinical service. In addition, Dr. Kocjancic has taught and practiced throughout Italy, where he did his medical, residency, and fellowship training. A graduate of the School of Medicine and Surgery in Trieste, he did residency training at the University of Milan, and is fellowship-trained in Female and Reconstructive Urology.

Dr. Kocjancic is active in several international medical and service organizations, promoting the practice and importance of urology around the world. He is on the editorial board of the International Urogynecology Journal, was chair of the ICS International Continence Society's Education Committee and is a member of the International Neurourology Society's Board of Directors.

Nereida Rojas, MD



Nereida Rojas, MD, was born and raised in Chicago. She went to college at St. John's University in New York, and medical school at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. She finished her residency at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, followed by a fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine at the Loyola University and Edward Hines Jr., VA combined Geriatric Medicine Fellowship program. Dr. Rojas' interests include urgent care, geriatric medicine, equity in healthcare and access to health care for all. She opened Beauty at First Sight, a med spa in the North Center neighborhood in Chicago. She enjoys helping patients achieve health care goals. Dr. Rojas has published research on heart failure and quality of life among underrepresented communities.

***Medical Spanish Summit Track A: Round 01 Understanding language access & interpreting experiences***

Moderated by: Alejandra Zapién Hidalgo, MD, MPH



Dr. Alejandra Zapien-Hidalgo, an Assistant Professor and the CME director in Family and Community Medicine. As an International Medical Graduate from Mexico, she has honed her expertise. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and serves as Director of the Bilingual Medical Spanish and Distinction Track programs at the Arizona Health Sciences.

Since 2009, Dr. Zapien-Hidalgo has collaborated with the UAHS-Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, dedicating herself to advancing Spanish programming. Her efforts led to the creation of longitudinal Spanish programs at UA-COM-Tucson in 2015 and UA-COM-Phoenix in 2023. She also designs and facilitates tailored medical Spanish programs for Banner Health residents, addressing health disparities in Southern Arizona by enhancing communication with Spanish-speaking communities.

Beyond academia, Dr. Zapien-Hidalgo is deeply committed to community engagement and supports UAHS-OEDI initiatives to boost underrepresented student participation in



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healthcare careers. She is a dedicated professional with a mission to foster positive change and believes in the power of education and outreach to transform communities.

### Alyssia Miller De Rutté, PhD



Alyssia Miller De Rutté, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Spanish for Specific Purposes at Colorado State University (CSU). She is also the Director of Languages for Specific Purposes and the Graduate Teaching Coordinator at CSU and is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Medical Spanish. Additionally, Dr. Miller De Rutté is affiliate faculty at the University of Colorado School of Medicine's Fort Collins branch, where she is the Course Director for medical Spanish. Her research interests center on medical Spanish, technology for language learning, and

the intersection of applied linguistics, culture, and health. Maggie Smith is an undergraduate student at Colorado State University majoring in Biological Sciences minoring in Spanish and Chemistry. Maggie hopes to attend medical school in the future.

### Rafael Iglesias, PhD

Rafael Iglesias is a Spanish language, culture, and literature professor with a doctorate in the field (Florida State University) and extensive expertise in areas such as teaching, curriculum design, grant writing, administration of undergraduate-level programs, scholarly research, and professional involvement.

### Yolanda Pineda-Vargas, MA



Yolanda Pineda Vargas is a Continuing Spanish Lecturer at the University of California, Merced. She completed a Master of Science at Purdue University in Microbiology in 1999 and a Master in Education at Universidad Industrial de Santander with an Emphasis in University Education Assessment in 1994. After 15 years as faculty in her home country Colombia, she joined University of California, Merced in July 2006. She has been teaching different Spanish language courses where she promotes an active learning atmosphere by using new ways to expose her students to the real world through service learning projects working with the Merced

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community. She is the adviser of two UC Merced student organization, Club de Español and Ballet Folklórico.

## ***Medical Spanish Summit Track A: Round 02 Connecting curriculum to research and culture***

Moderator: Rocío Chang, PsyD



Rocio Chang-Angulo's work stands at the intersection of medicine, psychology, and cultural advocacy. With a foundation in Neuroscience from Trinity College, Hartford, followed by a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Hartford and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Connecticut Health Center, Dr. Chang-Angulo has dedicated her career to the betterment of healthcare from both a clinical and educational perspective.

Currently serving as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Rocio's work plays a pivotal role in fostering diversity and equity practices at UConn Health, ensuring that medical, dental, and graduate students, as well as patients and families, receive care that's not just medically competent, but culturally sensitive and informed. Dr. Chang-Angulo teaches Medical Spanish to Medical and Dental students. She is the Latino Medical Student Association co-chair, the Antiracist Trauma-Informed System Transformation founder, and a committed member of the UCONN School of Medicine Diversity Council.

Mónica Rojas Chávez, MD



Originaria de Costa Rica, graduada de medicina en el 2014 y practicando en Costa Rica hasta el año 2020 cuando inicio su carrera como Assistant Professor at Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Actualmente como directora de medicina internacional y educacion cultural, desarrollo el programa de español medico que inicio en el 2021 preparando estudiantes para tener un mejor entendimiento linguistico y cultural de la comunidad hispana en Estados

Unidos y al mismo tiempo preparandolos para rotaciones clinicas en paises de habla hispana. Con mas de 20 años de experiencia trabajando con organizaciones sin fines de lucro en comunidades de riesgo en Latino America, trabaja motivando a los futuros medicos a buscar oportunidades para ayudar a las poblaciones mas necesitadas.

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### Bazif Bala, BA

Bazif Bala is a current second-year medical student at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Originally from Cook County, Bazif focuses much of his time in the Northeast (when not cramming for exams) at the intersection of mental health, equitable care for underserved populations, and multilingualism in medicine. As a graduate in Education Studies, he primarily does this through Medical Education, serving as the student lead for refugee health education, alongside leading the Medical Spanish & Medical Arabic electives at Brown. Outside of school, his community work predominantly involves working with Latinx populations on topics related to mental health, working as "Mental Health Initiatives Coordinator" at Progreso Latino, a local organization dedicated towards the advancement of Latinx individuals in R.I. When relaxing, you can find Bazif going out to coffee-shops, setting up movie nights with friends, and re-watching "Avatar the Last Airbender."

### Julio César Aguilar, PhD



Poeta, ensayista y traductor de inglés. Cursó la carrera de Medicina en la Universidad de Guadalajara, una maestría en Artes en Español en la Universidad de Texas en San Antonio y un doctorado en Estudios Hispánicos en la Universidad de Texas A&M, de la cual obtuvo una beca postdoctoral. Actualmente es profesor en Baylor University. Su obra se ha traducido a varios idiomas y ha sido publicada en diversos países, tales como Canadá, España, Estados Unidos, Irán, México, Perú y Polonia . Es autor, entre otros títulos, de Rescaldos, 1995; Brevesencias, 1996; El desierto del mundo, 1998; Orilla de la madrugada, 1999; La consigna y el milagro, 2003; El yo inmerso, 2007; Barcelona y otros lamentos, 2008; Alucinamiento, 2009; Aleteo entre los trinos, 2014; Perfil de niebla, 2016; Don del fulgor, 2018, Destellos de Zapotlán y otras penumbras, 2019; Alborozo, 2020, y Donde no falta nada, 2021.

## Breakout Session #2

### *Chronic Diseases*

Moderated by: Maria Mora Pinzon, MD, MS, FACPM



Dr. Mora Pinzon is a physician-scientist, board certified in Preventive Medicine and Public Health. She is currently an assistant professor on the tenure track at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology. Her work seeks to improve healthcare access for patients living with dementias and their caregivers, particularly among Latino populations. Among her awards, she was selected as 2018 Young Physician of the year by the National Hispanic Medical

Association, 2020 William Kane Rising Start Award from the American College of Preventive Medicine, and more recently named by Medscape as one of the 25 Rising Stars in Medicine. Dr. Mora Pinzon is a REC scholar with the Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and received a K99/R00 from the National Institute of Aging to fund her project “Improving Access to Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia’s Care Services for Latinx Individuals at Community Health Clinics”.

Kelly Guzmán, LMSW



Kelly Guzman is a bilingual mental health therapist/social worker and founder of Alianzas Counseling Kansas LLC in Wichita, KS, a unique therapy practice in Kansas that aims to create a sustainable mental health ecosystem for Spanish speakers by going beyond providing direct services and actively engaging in community empowerment efforts.

Rachel Showstack is an Associate Professor of Spanish and Linguistics at Wichita State University. She is the founder of

Alce Su Voz, an community-based organization that supports health equity for Spanish speakers and speakers of indigenous languages with a focus on the United States and the Midwest. Rommy Vargas is the founder of Ad Hoc Translations LLC, an interpreter agency, and Director of Education and Engagement of Interpreters of Alce Su Voz at Wichita State University

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David Márquez, PhD



David X. Marquez, PhD, earned a doctoral degree and a master's degree in kinesiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Loyola University Chicago. He is a Professor and Interim Department Head of Kinesiology and Nutrition and Director of the Exercise Psychology Laboratory at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). He is also Leader of the Latino Core of the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center. His research focuses on reducing health disparities, and primarily focuses on older Latino adults. Dr. Marquez is a fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the Gerontological Society of America, the American College of Sports Medicine, and the National Academy of Kinesiology.

Aksim Rivera, MD



Dr. Aksim G. Rivera, MD, RPVI, FACS, was born and raised in Puerto Rico and attended the University of Puerto Rico for undergraduate studies, graduating with a BS in Biology, and a minor in Anthropology. He received his medical degree from the Universidad Central del Caribe School of Medicine in Bayamon, PR. He completed his general surgery residency at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, NY, serving as a chief resident in his last year. He then completed a vascular and endovascular surgery fellowship at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Rivera is currently the Associate Chief of Vascular Surgery at H+H/Jacobi Medical Center and North Bronx Health Network in Bronx, NY and Medical Director of the Vascular Diagnostic Lab. He also serves as Site Director for the General Surgery residency and has a dual appointment as an Associate Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His research interests include vascular trauma, use of endovascular techniques in traumatic vascular Injuries, and race-based outcomes and

disparities in vascular surgery.

Diana Martínez Garcia, MS



Diana Garcia is the daughter of two Mexican immigrants who grew up in South Central Wisconsin. She received her B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies with minors in Chicana/Latina Studies and Global Health from the University of Wisconsin Madison this past May and is finishing her B.S. in Biology this fall. Diana's experiences as a first-generation Mexican-American and as the eldest daughter has sparked her desire to work with Latine and immigrant communities in the future. She is committed to increasing Latinx representation in medicine and medical research and enjoys mentoring 1st year undergraduate students and high school seniors who aspire to join the medical world. She aspires to become a family and internal medicine physician and to be involved with her community through a focus on disease prevention. During her free time, she enjoys going on long hikes and painting.

## ***Immigrant Health and Wellness: Furthering Health Equity***

Modeated by: Arantxa Sanchez



I was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico in 1994, and when I was nine years old, my family and I immigrated to the United States. Growing up in a disadvantaged neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, I faced additional obstacles when my tourist visa expired, and I became undocumented at the age of nine. Despite the challenges, I excelled in school and graduated from high school with honors. In 2012, my life took a profound turn when I was approved for DACA, granting me legal residence in the United States and the opportunity to work while pursuing my college education. I attended

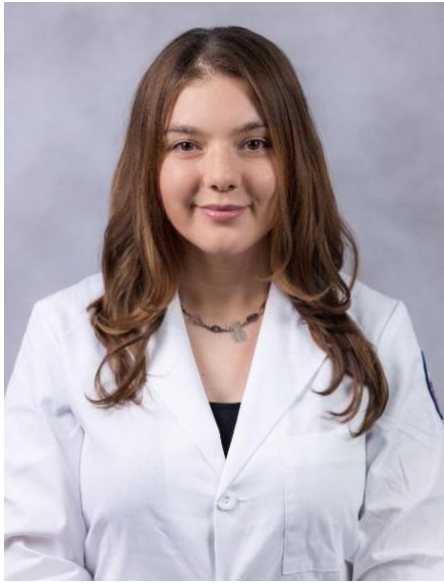
the University of Illinois at Chicago, where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience in 2016, becoming the first person in my family to graduate from college. While volunteering as a Spanish medical interpreter at my local clinic in Roseland, I realized the limited access to healthcare that many minority patients faced, along with the lack of representation of Hispanic doctors to cater to this community. I realized that my presence as an interpreter provided comfort, sensitivity, and a unique insight into patients' health. I knew that becoming a physician would allow me to provide culturally competent care to high-risk and vulnerable patient populations, and I made it my mission to be part of this change. My passion for the field of medicine has propelled me to take on various roles in healthcare, expanding my clinical knowledge and advocating tirelessly for the needs of hundreds of patients. As the lead medical assistant at a primary care health center, allowed me to establish regulations to further assist underserved communities. Furthermore, my dedication to social justice has led me to actively engage in various non-profit advocacy initiatives. As a member of MOLA DACA Task force, we provide informational resources, support, and mentorship for DACA beneficiaries to aspire to embark in the field of medicine. Additionally, I have conducted rigorous scientific research at the University of Chicago, resulting in the publication of three articles in reputable scholarly journals and the opportunity of presenting my research findings at a national conference. After overcoming numerous obstacles on my path to medical school as a low-income, first-generation college graduate and DACA recipient, my passion and commitment to a career in medicine resulted in my acceptance to



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the Medical College of Wisconsin. As I embark on this new chapter in my life, I am driven by a desire to make a meaningful impact in the field of medicine. My journey toward becoming a physician has been shaped by personal experiences, a commitment to community service, and a drive to empower others. I envision a future where healthcare becomes more accessible, compassionate, and culturally sensitive, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of well-being. By embracing diversity, fostering collaboration, and championing the potential of every individual, I hope to contribute to a brighter and healthier future for all.

### Sara Izquierdo



Sara Izquierdo is a Peruvian-American, native to Chicago, who is a second year medical student at the University of Illinois Chicago College of Medicine. After pursuing her Master of Public Health, she investigated the incidence of violence against migrants transiting Latin America in collaboration with Mexico's National Institute of Public Health. In Chicago, she has organized neighborhood-led vaccination campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic and preventative health fairs in underserved, low-resource communities. In 2023, she started the Mobile Migrant Health Team with a group of classmates and physicians to provide health assessments

for recently arrived asylum seekers.

Estefania Perez



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Geraldine Luna, MD



Dr. Geraldine Luna is Medical Director at the Chicago Department of Public Health Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Bureau, President of the Executive Board of Directors of Illinois Unidos Coalition, Executive Board Director of the Medical Organization for Latino Advancement, Board Director at Illinois Unidos Coalition, and Chair of the National Hispanic Medical Association Chicago Chapter. She has been involved in healthcare for over 15 years, focusing on the underserved, marginalized, and segregated Hispanic/Latinos geriatric community.

Dr. Luna graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in Internal Medicine with a Geriatric subspecialty and a Master's in Public Health - Health Policy and Administration. Additionally, she completes an Executive Master's in Business Administration at Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Her interest and work are in minority health, social justice, and equity to bridge health disparity gaps among Black and Brown communities in Illinois and close the racial life expectancy gap. She strongly advocates for culturally and linguistically competent healthcare access for Hispanic/Latinos Spanish-speaking immigrants in Chicago.

@DrGeraldineLuna on [Twitter](#), [www.linkedin.com/in/geraldine-luna-md](https://www.linkedin.com/in/geraldine-luna-md) on [LinkedIn](#).

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Tovia Siegel



Tovia Siegel is the Director of Healthy Illinois, a campaign to make quality, affordable healthcare coverage accessible to all people in Illinois, regardless of immigration status. She leads a coalition of stakeholders to organize and build power to change policy. Previously, Tovia was an organizer at Families Belong Together, the immigration campaign of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, to drive campaigns and shift culture to create a broad pro-immigrant base in the United States. Before that, Tovia worked at the National Immigrant Justice Center, where she

coordinated a program to provide free immigration legal services and Know Your Rights trainings to Chicago residents. She holds a Bachelor's in Sociology and a Master's of Arts in Public Policy from University of Chicago.

Israel Rocha



Israel Rocha Jr. joined Cook County Health (CCH) as Chief Executive Officer in December 2020. CCH has a storied 185 year legacy of caring for all patients, regardless of ability to pay or immigration status. Today it includes two hospitals, including the Midwest's largest trauma center, more than a dozen community health centers, Cermak Health Services- the medical provider at the Cook County Jail and Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, the Cook County Department of Public Health and CountyCare, a Medicaid managed care plan. The health system serves

more than 600,000 individuals each year and has a \$4 billion budget.

At CCH, Mr. Rocha quickly established himself as a hands-on, visionary leader who motivated and guided his team in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world's biggest public health crisis in a century. Managing COVID patients would have been enough for many health care leaders but Mr. Rocha challenged the CCH team to think beyond its own walls to build what would be one of the largest community mass vaccination programs in the

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nation. Breathing new life into shuttered big box stores, repurposing convention centers and community college gymnasiums, and integrating vaccination initiatives at all CCH facilities and with partners across the County, CCH accomplished Mr. Rocha's goal of providing more than one million doses of COVID vaccine. CCH was among the first health systems in the nation to achieve this milestone in vaccinating the communities it serves. Committed throughout his career to social justice and health equity, Mr. Rocha launched the Office of Equity & Inclusion at CCH in early 2021 to bring together disparate parts of the health system in a collaborative way to affect real change. This effort, coupled with a commitment to increase services and improve facilities at the system's Provident Hospital, and to continue to improve the quality of care delivered across Cook County Health, have been his key priorities. In April 2022, Mr. Rocha announced the establishment of The Change Institute of Cook County Health, a think- and do- tank designed to address health equity, improve patient outcomes including the prevention of premature death. The Change Institute will convene a broad spectrum of stakeholders from health care, business, academia, and government to tackle diseases like cancer, diabetes, cancer and stroke that disproportionately impact the health and livelihoods of minority communities. Mr. Rocha's aim is to leverage all available resources to address these disease states with the same force and coordination demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As CCH CEO, Mr. Rocha serves as on the Boards of Directors of the Illinois Health & Hospitals Association and America's Essential Hospitals, as well as the American Hospital Association Region V Policy Board. Mr. Rocha came to CCH after serving as the CEO of NYC Health + Hospitals Elmhurst and Queens hospitals. NYC Health + Hospitals is the largest public health system in the U.S. with a combined annual budget of more than \$8

billion. Over the course of Mr. Rocha's time at Elmhurst, he successfully implemented an operational and clinical improvement plan that turned around financial performance from a \$100M deficit to a breakeven point in less than three years. He increased patient revenue by more than \$50M in 24 months through the implementation of a clinical services plan that expanded Elmhurst's market share in several key service lines. Mr. Rocha established a patient throughput and quality assurance team that reduced patient length of stay by 1.3 days, reduced ER wait times by almost 30 percent, and improved physician engagement scores by 20 percent in the first year of enactment. Working with the team at Queens, Mr. Rocha launched the development of a Sickle Cell Center of Excellence, started a Hip and Knee Joint Replacement Program and launched the development of a new Primary Stroke Center. Mr. Rocha's early experience includes serving as the CEO of Doctors Hospital at

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Renaissance Health System in Edinburg, Texas and working on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Wagner School of Public Service at New York University and a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science & Environmental Science from Columbia University, NY.

Mervin Dino, MPH



Mervin Dino, MPH (he/him, él) is a public health practitioner, educator, and social justice activist. Mervin grew up in Skokie, IL and is the son of two Filipino immigrants and is bilingual in Spanish.

Mervin is the Director of the Transition Support Program/Programa de Apoyo de Transición at Advocate Aurora Health and leads a multi-hospital safety net program that supports the health care transition from the hospital to the community. Mervin is Co-Chair of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council at Advocate Illinois

Masonic Medical Center and Co-Chair of the Anti-Racism/Anti-Hate Collaborative at Advocate.

Mervin serves as an Adjunct Faculty member at the Parkinson School of Health Sciences and Public Health at Loyola University Chicago. Mervin is also working on a Doctor of Public Health degree at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health with a concentration in Health Equity and Social Justice.

Mervin holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Systems Management from Loyola University Chicago and a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Administration from University of Illinois-Chicago.

In his free time, Mervin is a volunteer at Curie High School on Chicago's southwest side.

## ***Medical Spanish Summit Track B: Round 03 Improving curriculum & assessment***

Moderated by: Alejandra Zapién Hidalgo, MD, MPH



Dr. Alejandra Zapien-Hidalgo, an Assistant Professor and the CME director in Family and Community Medicine. As an International Medical Graduate from Mexico, she has honed her expertise. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and serves as Director of the Bilingual Medical Spanish and Distinction Track programs at the Arizona Health Sciences.

Since 2009, Dr. Zapien-Hidalgo has collaborated with the UAHS-Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, dedicating herself to advancing Spanish programming. Her efforts led to the creation of longitudinal Spanish programs at UA-COM-Tucson in 2015 and UA-COM-Phoenix in 2023. She also designs and facilitates tailored medical Spanish programs for Banner Health residents, addressing health disparities in Southern Arizona by enhancing communication with Spanish-speaking communities.

Beyond academia, Dr. Zapien-Hidalgo is deeply committed to community engagement and supports UAHS-OEDI initiatives to boost underrepresented student participation in healthcare careers. She is a dedicated professional with a mission to foster positive change and believes in the power of education and outreach to transform communities.

**Daniela Bresciani Padilla.**



Daniela Bresciani Padilla was born and raised in Puerto Rico. After completing her degree in Public Health Sciences at Johns Hopkins University, she returned home to pursue a career in medicine. Currently in her third year of medical school at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) School of Medicine, Daniela works towards her goal for healthcare equity and advocacy. During her time in the United States, Daniela gained firsthand experience as an EMT in Baltimore County, where she witnessed disparities faced by Hispanic communities, especially in healthcare. These experiences motivated her to co-found the first LMSA Chapter at UPR, assuming the role of Vice-President. Understanding

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the value of bilingual medical students in Puerto Rico, Daniela proposed a project, training these students as standardized patients to help their counterparts in the states improve their Medical Spanish and Spanish communication skills. With aspirations of becoming a surgeon, Daniela envisions a future where language barriers no longer hinder effective healthcare delivery, and she is determined to play a role in making that vision a reality.

### Rose Molina, MD, MPH



Dr. Rose Molina (she/ella) is an obstetrician-gynecologist and scholar-activist with a passion for applying language and immigration status as critical lenses for understanding and eliminating inequities in maternal health. She is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School. She completed a Global Women's Health Fellowship and obtained a Master of Public Health in Clinical Effectiveness from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She works at The Dimock Center (a federally qualified community health center), where she cares for a large community of Spanish-speaking immigrants, and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. She is the Lawrence Director of Professionalism, Humanism, and Health Equity in Medicine and the inaugural Director of the Medical Language Program at Harvard Medical School. She is currently an AHRQ Learning Health Systems K12 scholar and is building a research portfolio to enhance trust when language barriers are present in pregnancy care.

### Gilberto García, PhD

Gilberto Garcia is a Mexican-American scholar and professor. He was born in El Paso, Texas, and raised in Ciudad Juárez, México. He holds two bachelor's degrees in linguistics and Spanish and border studies from the University of Texas at El Paso and a bachelor's of education from La Universidad Pedagógica Nacional in Mexico, respectively. He received his master's in Spanish from the University of Texas at El Paso. He also received a master's in education in 2013 in teaching and learning processes from Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico. Dr. Garcia is a Ph.D. recipient in Hispanic linguistics with a minor in educational psychology. During the last year of his Ph.D., Dr. Garcia was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award from Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Currently, Dr. Garcia is directing and teaching in the newly developed, breakthrough Spanish Language Program in the Medical Education Department at TTUHSC El Paso. He has presented in a variety of conferences and published articles in his research and teaching interests. Those interests include heritage language education, heritage speaker identity,



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heritage speakers in monolingual settings, border studies and transculturation, second language instruction and Spanish dialectology.

## ***Medical Spanish Summit Track B: Round 04 Improving curriculum & assessment***

Moderator: Dalia Magaña, PhD



**Dalia Magaña** (Ph.D., Spanish Linguistics, University of California at Davis) is an Associate Professor of Spanish Linguistics at the University of California, Merced. Her research focuses on improving healthcare communication with Spanish speakers and developing intentional language pedagogy. Her studies, published in journals including *Applied Linguistics*, *Discourse & Communication*, and *Health Communication*, raise awareness about the role of interpersonal language in improving healthcare communication with local communities of Spanish speakers. Her first book, "*Building Confianza: Empowering Latinx Patients Through Transcultural Interactions*" (2021), argues that effective doctor–patient communication in Spanish requires practitioners who have transcultural knowledge of Latinos' values and sociolinguistic awareness of their language use. In collaboration with a team of linguists, she co-authored a book, "*Health Disparities and the Applied Linguist*" (2022), which bridges theory and practice

to demonstrate how applied linguists are uniquely positioned to make vital contributions toward advancing health equity in the US.

Maya Osman-Krinsky, MPH



Maya Osman-Krinsky (they/them) researches patient/clinician communication, translanguaging, implicit bias, and linguistic prejudice. They graduated in 2023 from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University with a focus on Sociomedical Sciences and Health Communication. Previously, Maya graduated from the University of Chicago in 2021 with a BA in Linguistics and Creative Writing. They live in New York City.

Annabel Vila, MD

Annabel Vila, MD, joined as an associate professor of Pathology at Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MUCOM) in August 2020. Dr. Vila earned her Doctor of Allopathic Medicine at the Higher Institute of Medical Sciences of Villa Clara, Cienfuegos,

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Cuba, College of Allopathic Medicine in 1994. She completed her Family Medicine residency training in 1999 and her Emergency Medicine fellowship in 2001.

She has been teaching since 1996 with more than 20 years of expertise in academic Institutions; starting as an assistant professor of Family Medicine, and clinical rotations. During 1997-2000, she holds the responsibility of coordinating the clerkship for medical students and residents of Family Medicine in Cienfuegos, Cuba.

In the states, in 2012, she was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Pathology at the College of Medical Sciences at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), Fort Lauderdale, Florida. At NSU she was promoted to Associate professor of Pathology in 2017 and had the responsibilities of teaching General and Systemic Pathology for different colleges in the health profession Division, like the College of Optometrists, College of Dental Medicine, College of Osteopathic Medicine, and College of Allopathic Medicine.

Research Interest: Clinicopathologic study of findings encountered during donor cadaveric dissection: malignant, benign, or anatomic variation.

Medical Spanish Standardized Curriculum Study. With this research project, we want to evaluate the effectiveness of a standardized medical Spanish curriculum at a nationally representative sample of medical schools and explore what elements may be different in Osteopathic Medicine that should be taught in Medical Spanish courses in DO schools to add to the current literature.

### Ann Cheney, PhD



Ann Cheney, PhD, is associate professor in the Department of Social Medicine Population and Public Health at the University of California Riverside School of Medicine. She is a medical anthropologist and conducts community based participatory research as a vehicle to empower grassroots leaders to activate communities and change narratives of health and wellbeing. Dr. Cheney's current work focuses on the impact of structural inequality in health with a focus on

Latinx and Indigenous Mexican immigrants in rural desert communities in Inland Southern California. Dr. Cheney is faculty director for HABLAMoS (Hispanic And Bilingual Ambulatory Medical Studies) and the Coachella Valley Free Clinic.