



Raul Ruiz, MD

Chairman

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

U.S. Representative Raul Ruiz, M.D., grew up in the community of Coachella, California, where both of his parents were farmworkers.

Dr. Ruiz achieved his lifelong dream of becoming a physician through public education. After graduating from Coachella Valley High School, Dr. Ruiz graduated magna cum laude from UCLA. He went on to Harvard University, where he earned his Medical Degree, as well as a Masters of Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government and a Masters of Public Health from the School of Public Health, becoming the first Latino to earn three graduate degrees from Harvard University. He completed his Residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and a Fellowship in International Emergency Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital. During his training, Dr. Ruiz served as a consultant to the Ministries of Health of both Serbia and El Salvador.

Dr. Ruiz returned home after completing his medical training and began working as an Emergency Room doctor at Eisenhower Medical Center. Recognizing the physician shortage crisis in the Coachella Valley, Dr. Ruiz started a pre-medical mentorship program for young aspiring doctors, which has grown to include over 100 local students. The program became part of the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine, where Dr. Ruiz served as a Senior Associate Dean. Through the group Volunteers in Medicine, he helped to open a free clinic to help underserved communities in the Coachella Valley.

In 2010, Dr. Ruiz started the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative, which brought together stakeholders from across the region to address the local healthcare crisis. He has also worked internationally in the medical community. In 2010, Dr. Ruiz flew to Haiti immediately following the 2010 earthquake and served as the Medical Director for the J/P Haitian Relief Organization. The U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne awarded him the Commanders Award for Public Service for his work.

Dr. Ruiz continued his work as an Emergency Room Doctor until he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012. He represents California's 36th District, which includes the entire Coachella Valley, as well as the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Blythe, Hemet and San Jacinto. He resides in Palm Desert, CA. Dr. Ruiz currently serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Dr. Ruiz also serves as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.



Vivian Hernandez-Trujillo, MD

Attending Physician

Allergy and Immunology Care Center of South Florida

Dr. Vivian Hernandez-Trujillo graduated from Miami Children's Hospital following a residency in pediatrics. She then graduated from the Allergy and Immunology Fellowship Training Program at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, in collaboration with LeBonheur Children's Hospital and St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

She has been the Director of the Division of Allergy and Immunology at Miami Children's Hospital/ Nicklaus Children's Hospital since January 2008. She is also the Fellowship training program director for the Allergy/Immunology Fellowship program at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. She is Clinical Professor at the Herbert Wertheim School of Medicine at Florida International University. She founded Allergy and Immunology Care Center of South Florida. She is board certified in Pediatrics, as well as Allergy and Immunology.

Dr. Hernandez-Trujillo has conducted clinical research on asthma, food allergy and anaphylaxis and conducted basic laboratory research on Agammaglobulinemia. Her research and interests are in the areas of Healthcare disparities, particularly the impact on Hispanic/ Latinx patients, and the impact on asthma, food allergy and, B cell and T cell Immunodeficiency disorders, with special interest in Agammaglobulinemia and 22 q 11 patients.

She is an advocate for patients with allergy and immunology diseases. As a patient and mother of a daughter with asthma, she understands the challenges of living with chronic disease. As a young physician, she worked on the creation of Asthma fairs and radio programs in Spanish for patients with asthma.

She was active during the COVID-19 pandemic sharing information in Spanish through efforts with the Immune Deficiency Foundation and collaborated with the Allergy and Asthma Network on a Webinar series for Hispanic/ Latinx patients and the impact of asthma.



Purvi Parikh, MD, FACAAL, FACP

Clinical Assistant Professor

NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Purvi Parikh, MD, FACAAL, FACP is an allergist and immunologist at Allergy and Asthma Associates of Murray Hill. She is currently on faculty as Clinical Assistant Professor in both departments of Medicine and Pediatrics at New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Parikh has published articles in allergy, asthma, and immunodeficiency syndromes in various peer reviewed journals and textbooks.

She is a champion and spokesperson for the United Nation Foundation's vaccine initiative Shot@life and has traveled to Zambia on their behalf. She is also a national spokesperson for the Allergy and Asthma Network, which is the leading patient advocacy group for patients and their families who suffer from life threatening allergic and immunologic conditions. She frequently makes appearance as a medical expert on their behalf to NBC, FOX, CNN, Wallstreet Journal, CNBC and CBS. She also regularly contributes to numerous print magazines and other publications.

She has been passionate about health policy since she was a medical student and sits on committees for American Medical Association and Board of directors of the advocacy council of the American college of allergy asthma and Immunology. She travels to Washington, D.C. multiple times per year to influence policy, testify before the government, and advocate for her patients.

During the pandemic, in addition to taking care of patients, she is an investigator/researcher in three (Pfizer, Astra Zeneca, and Sanofi) of the Covid-19 vaccine trials at NYU Langone Health's vaccine center. She also is part of the NIH - Momivax trial that studies vaccine safety in pregnant and breastfeeding moms and their babies. She is also now involved in COVID long haul research. Since the early days of the pandemic, Dr. Parikh has volunteered her time on a daily basis to fight tirelessly against misinformation at the grassroots level and in the local and national media. She also worked alongside government officials such as the surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murty, Immunologist Dr. Anthony Fauci, and the US department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

She was the youngest president of the New York Allergy and Asthma Society in 2018. She was recently named in Emory University's 40 under 40 class. She recently received the most distinguished young physician award from the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin for 2020-2021 due to her work in vaccine research and on the front lines of the global pandemic. She also received the Dr. I A Modi award in the young physician category for achieving excellence in Medicine in February of 2021 by Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. She is currently the chair of Medical Society of New York's Young physician section as well as an AMA young physician delegate.