



National Hispanic Medical Association

Leadership Fellowship Program

Class of 2023

NHMA Leadership Fellowship Program

The NHMA Leadership Fellowship is an executive training program that started in 1999 and has supported the careers of over 100 Hispanic physicians who are working in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, State and City Health Commissioner positions, and academic leaders in medical schools, chief medical officers in federal clinics and in private practice.

The underrepresentation of Hispanics in high-level Federal and State positions as well as in private sector remains a major concern, especially in the United States healthcare system. With such low representation in the US health workforce, the Latino community is left without adequate resources to address the excessive burden of health inequities. Increasing Hispanic physicians in senior executive management positions in the government and private sector will be an important step towards achieving health equity and quality health care for all Americans.

The lack of Hispanic faculty role models and leadership in academic medicine and other health professions is a factor that affects the effective recruitment of Hispanic students and the ability of our academic medicine community to strategically improve the health of Hispanics.

Finally, there is a critical void in education of the U.S. Congress and the State Legislature and public health leaders about the healthcare issues that impact the Hispanic community, the largest ethnic group in the U.S. who have been largely ignored by the health policy debate. It has only been recently that the Hispanic population had data collection and policy discussion on the impact of Federal and state programs and an acknowledgement of the challenge to the future generations that Hispanic health is a severely underestimated priority for policy-makers.

The purpose of the NHMA Leadership Fellowship is to assist in the development of leadership potential among physician members of the National Hispanic Medical Association, in order to increase the number of skilled Hispanic physicians who may be eligible for entry to the pool of applicants for policy making and executive positions within State and Federal Government and the private sector at decision-making levels. The ultimate outcome is to improve the quality of health of all Americans.



Core Faculty of NHMA Leadership Fellowship Program



Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, MACP
President & CEO
National Hispanic Medical Association



Jo Ivey Boufford, MD
Clinical Professor of Global Health
NYU School of Global Public Health



Hector Colon-Rivera, MD, MRO
Consultation Liaison Psychiatrist, Main Line
Health
Medical Director, Asociación
Puertorriqueños en Marcha



Katherine Flores, MD
Director, UCSF Fresno Latino Center for
Medical Education and Research
Associate Clinical Professor, UC San
Francisco

Emilio Morante, MPH, MSUP
Senior Director
Urban Health Plan Inc.

NHMA CLASS OF 2023 LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

Dear NHMA Leadership
Fellows

Congratulations! On behalf of the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA), we are pleased to have you in our 2023 Leadership Fellowship Program. Your outstanding accomplishments and proven dedication to the Hispanic community have been recognized and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, MACP
President and CEO
National Hispanic Medical Association



Angela Nusloch, MD

Medical Director of Endoscopy Labs

Ochsner Medical Center

Baton Rouge, LA

Dr. Angela Nusloch received her medical degree from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic. She completed two fellowships. Her Gastroenterology fellowship was completed at Banner University Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona. She returned to the Mayo Clinic to complete a Transplant Hepatology fellowship. Dr. Nusloch is board-certified in Gastroenterology. She has been on staff at Ochsner since 2020 and practicing medicine since 2006. Dr. Nusloch's expertise is in Inpatient Gastroenterology and Quality Endoscopy Care. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her husband and spending time with her family.



Carla Vazquez Santos, MD

Team Physician Internal Medicine

One Medical Seniors

Federal Way, WA

Dr. Carla Vazquez Santos is an Internal Medicine physician in the greater Seattle area working primarily with the geriatric population and serving the Hispanic community in South King County. She was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and grew up in the town of Carolina. She obtained a BS in Biology from the University of Puerto Rico, graduating summa cum laude in 2010 and receiving highest GPA distinction. She obtained her medical degree in 2014 from University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine and went on to complete her residency in Internal Medicine at the same institution in 2017.

.Dr.Vazquez Santos has always had a passion to serve underinsured, low-income and/ or immigrant communities. Thus, after completion of her residency, she completed a Global Medicine Fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA. Through this program, Dr. Vazquez Santos became a Lecturer in Medicine at Harvard Medical School and was appointed an Assistant in Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. She was also able to work as a physician at Barbara McInnis House, a medical respite facility which forms part of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. In addition, she shared her passion, knowledge and clinical skills globally by providing clinical teaching and patient care at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital in Mbarara, Uganda

Dr. Vazquez Santos is committed to continue improving the life of her patients through compassionate, patient-centered care, and in a collaborative patient-doctor relationship. She has great knowledge and experience in preventative medicine and management of chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and depression. She also enjoys mentoring students at all levels, particularly empowering young, hispanic females to become strong, passionate and compassionate professionals in the medical field.



Carlos Salama, MD

Director of Global Health &
Site Director for Mount Sinai ID
Fellowship

Elmhurst Hospital Center

Professor of Medicine

Icahn School of Medicine

New York, NY

Dr. Carlos Salama is an Infectious Diseases Physician at Elmhurst Hospital Center and Professor of Medicine at Icahn School of Medicine in New York City. Elmhurst Hospital is a public hospital that serves a mostly Latinx immigrant community from Central and South America and the Caribbean.

His roles at Elmhurst include: Director of Global Health, Head of the General ID Clinic, and Site Director for the Mount Sinai ID Fellowship Program. Dr. Salama previously ran the HIV clinic at Elmhurst for 11 years.

In his current role in Global Health, Dr. Salama works with neighborhood community-based organizations to improve the care of the undocumented Latinx communities in our surrounding neighborhoods.

Dr. Salama's family is originally from Argentina.



Erika Ramirez Jimenez, MD

Internal Medicine Partner Physician

Southern California Physician Medical Group

Equity, Inclusion and Diversity
Coordinator

Kaiser Permanente

Downey, CA

Dr. Erika Ramirez Jimenez was born in Guadalajara, Mexico and raised in Southern California. She obtained her degrees in Psychology and Spanish from the University of Southern California (USC) and continued her education at USC Keck School of Medicine where she earned her Doctorate in Medicine. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of California Davis and is board certified in the field.

. For the past six years, Dr. Ramirez has been providing quality care to a predominantly working-class, Spanish-speaking, Latinx patient population as a partner physician at Kaiser Permanente in Downey, California. With a longstanding dedication to minority healthcare, she has participated and led various minority health-focused initiatives and currently serves as the Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (EID) coordinator for the outpatient Internal Medicine clinic.

Her position has allowed her to educate colleagues on critical medical topics, such as LGBTQ+ health, COVID-19 disparities in minority communities, and female reproductive rights. Her clinical expertise encompasses primary care, preventative medicine, and the treatment of chronic conditions, including diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) has recognized her excellence in diabetic care.

As a native Spanish speaker, Dr. Ramirez is an advocate for her Spanish-speaking patients, ensuring patient-centered, comprehensive, and culturally informed medical care.



Johanna Contreras, MD, MSc, FACC, FAHA, FASE, FHFSa

Director of Diversity and Inclusion in
Heart Failure &
Director of Ambulatory Heart Failure

Mount Sinai Health System

Associate Professor of Medicine

Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine
New York, NY

Johanna Contreras, M.D, is the Director of the Ambulatory Heart Failure Network and Director of Diversity and Inclusion in Heart Failure- Mount Sinai Health System, and an Associate Professor of Medicine at The Icahn School of Medicine. Dr. Contreras attended Universidad Industrial de Santander in Columbia and completed a residency program at Tufts Medical Center - Tufts University. She completed postgraduate training in Cardiology and Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplantation at Tufts Medical Center - Tufts University. Dr. Contreras also completed a research fellowship in Pulmonary, Critical Care Medicine, Molecular Immunology and exercise physiology at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Contreras strives to promote diversity and healthcare among minority patients. She is one of the founding members of the American Heart Association Hispanic Latino Cardiovascular Collaborative, the Women in Transplant and Mechanical Support and founding board member of the Equity in Heart Transplant Project, with the goal of improving diversity at all levels of the organization. She is determined to achieve equity and to eliminate cardiovascular healthcare disparities and improve access of minority patients to advanced heart failure therapies –including mechanical heart devices and cardiac transplantation.

She is an active clinical investigator in multiple national and international trials and she is creating novel ways to increase participation of minority patients in clinical trials.

She is an active member of the American College of Cardiology, Heart Failure Society of America, American Echocardiography, American Heart Association, International Society of Heart and Lung transplant, among others.



Jorge O. Moreno, MD

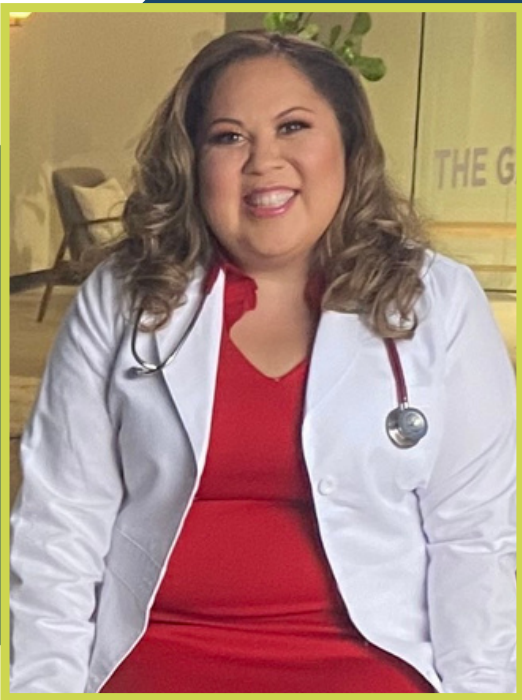
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine

Yale School of Medicine

New Haven, CT

Dr. Jorge O. Moreno is Assistant Professor of Medicine at Yale School of Medicine. He is board certified in obesity medicine and internal medicine. Dr. Moreno is originally from Mexico and was the first college graduate and doctor in his family. He graduated with a BA from Columbia University in 2006 and received his MD from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 2011. Growing up with primarily Spanish-speaking parents, Dr. Moreno saw the inequities that exist in healthcare and the effects on the Hispanic community. He completed his internal medicine residency at Yale Primary Care Program in 2014. Initially, he worked in an internal medicine community practice in Connecticut, and in 2018, returned to Yale as faculty in the clinician-educator track. He developed an interest in caring for patients with obesity and started a subspecialty obesity medicine clinic as part of his internal medicine practice. At Yale School of Medicine, Dr. Moreno has focused on developing obesity medicine curricula for medical students, physician associate students and medical residents.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly influenced his clinical practice, he cared for patients with COVID-19 on the inpatient COVID units and in the outpatient setting throughout the pandemic. He quickly recognized not only the lack of information in Spanish about COVID-19 and the vaccines available, but also the vaccine hesitancy that existed in the Hispanic community. His focus turned to educating this community about COVID-19 in English and Spanish. Teaming with the Yale New Haven Health System, he participated in informational videos about the COVID-19 vaccine in Spanish. His outreach work with the Hispanic community led to collaborations with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and garnered media attention from local and national outlets. He is excited to join the 2023 NHMA Leadership Fellowship class to further develop his leadership skills and continue to be a physician leader and advocate for the Hispanic community.



Juanita Mora, MD

Physician and CEO
Chicago Allergy Center
National Spokesperson
American Lung Association
Chicago, IL

Dr. Juanita Mora was born and raised in Chicago. She is a first generation Mexican American and the first doctor in her family. She has a passion for educating the latino community, bridging the gap in health equity and found her voice through the COVID-19 pandemic as she helped the latino community navigate and walk through the hard times and uncertainty of this pandemic with her knowledge. She stepped in to do multiple local and national campaigns to break down barriers of misinformation.

Dr. Mora serves as Volunteer Medical National Spokesperson for the American Lung Association and serves as a voice of education and science for those that have no voice. She has done multiple national interviews throughout the COVID-19 pandemic including NPR, Time Magazine, Washington Post, New York Post, Wall Street Journal, Associated Press, NBC news, WGN, Univision, Telemundo and most recently was recognized as a Health Hero by US News and World Report for her work with the Latino Immigrant Community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She also received the 2022 Practice Champion Award by the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology for her work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Mora continues to serve on multiple local and national campaigns to help keep the latino community safe and use her voice to keep this community safe and healthy.



Leandro Slipczuk Bustamante, MD, PhD, FACC

Section Head and Director of Clinical Cardiology &
Director of Advanced Cardiac Imaging and CV
Atherosclerosis and Lipid Disorder Center

Montefiore Healthcare Network

Associate Program Director of Advanced Cardiac
Imaging Fellowship &
Assistant Professor

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
New York, NY

Dr. Leandro Slipczuk Bustamante is a board-certified cardiologist, Section Head and Director of Clinical Cardiology, Director of the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Program and the CV Atherosclerosis and Lipid Disorder Center at Montefiore Healthcare Network. Additionally, Dr. Slipczuk is the Associate Program Director of the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Fellowship and Assistant Professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His clinical focus is in the prevention and treatment of coronary artery disease, valvular heart disease, lipid and cardiometabolic disorders with a comprehensive clinical and multimodality imaging approach.

In 2007, Dr. Slipczuk received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Buenos Aires, and in 2010 received his Doctor of Philosophy. Dr. Slipczuk began his postgraduate training with a residency in internal medicine at Einstein Medical Center and then completed a fellowship in cardiology and advanced cardiovascular imaging in 2016 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Dr. Slipczuk's research focus is on the identification of high-risk patients and plaque features, lipid disorders and cardiovascular imaging. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals including PNAS, JACC, European Heart Journal, JACC Advances, Circulation CV Imaging, JAHA and Journal of Nuclear Medicine.

Dr. Slipczuk is board certified by the American Board of Clinical Lipidology and the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is also board certified in cardiovascular CT, echocardiography and nuclear cardiology. He is a member of the AHA Council of Cardiac Imaging and Intervention Science committee and the Educational Committee of the SCCT. He is also a Guest Associate Editor for Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine.



Linda Mirdamadi, MD

Adjunct Clinical Faculty
Executive Board of Directors

Keck School of Medicine of USC

Board of Governors

University of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Mirdamadi is an Internist with over 20 years of clinical and executive leadership experience with expertise in Lifestyle and Bariatric Medicine with a focus on wellness, obesity and chronic disease prevention. She is the former Chief Wellness Officer and Medical Director for the Center for Healthy Living and Weight Management and is the co-founder of the Bariatric program at Kaiser Permanente in West Los Angeles.

Currently, Dr. Mirdamadi serves as adjunct clinical faculty at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, serves on the Executive Board of Directors for the Keck School of Medicine, chairs the Alumni Mentorship Committee, and is the Alumni Faculty Advisor for the Latino Medical Student Association.

She also serves on the USC Board of Governors, volunteers her time with the USC Latino Alumni Association, and is on the Board of Directors for A Thousand Joys, a Los Angeles based non-profit that promotes and supports the well-being of our communities through education and empowerment. She is a fierce advocate for social justice and health equity and believes with increased access to health care, education, and developing public policies to support these goals, we can create a healthier nation for all.

Dr. Mirdamadi received her B.S. in Biology from the University of California Irvine and earned her MD at the Keck School of Medicine of USC as a Latino Alumni Association Scholar. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine and currently lives in Los Angeles where she maintains a part time clinical practice in Bariatric and Lifestyle Medicine.



Norma Perez, MD, FAAP

Director of ACEs (Advanced Childhood Experiences)
Grants

AltaMed

Pediatric Physician

AltaMed

Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Norma Perez is a board-certified pediatrician who is passionate about providing excellent medical care to communities that have historically experienced health disparities. Dr. Perez was born in Los Angeles and raised in the city of Huntington Park. Her own experiences growing up in a medically underserved area peaked her interest in community medicine.

Throughout her career, Dr. Perez has worked with underserved communities in several primary care settings. Dr. Perez joined AltaMed Health Services in 2015 as a primary care Pediatrician and transitioned into the Site Medical Director position in 2017 where she has helped shape pediatric care for children in the Los Angeles area. She is now the Director of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) grants at AltaMed, addressing toxic-stress in the community and creating networks to facilitate access to buffering social services for AltaMed patients and their families.

Dr. Perez received her undergraduate degree at UCLA. She earned her medical degree from New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York and completed her residency in Pediatrics at Stony Brook University Hospital. Dr. Perez is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.



Sonia Oyola, MD, ABOIM

Director of Medical Education and Clerkship
Department of Family Medicine

University of Chicago

Family Medicine Integrative Primary Care
Physician

Heartland Health Centers

Chicago, IL

Sonia Oyola, MD has been a Family Medicine Physician since 2000 after completing medical school at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1997 and residency at Cook County's Family Medicine Residency in 2000. She completed further training at the Arizona Center's Integrative Medicine fellowship in 2013 and is currently the Director of Medical Student Education, Director of the Family Medicine and Domestic Violence Electives and co-director of the Culinary Medicine Programs for the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine. She describes herself as fortunate to see patients at Tapestry 360 Health here in Chicago. Her specific interests are in Integrative Primary Care, Domestic Violence, Stress Disorders, Mind-Body Medicine (particularly Meditation, Yoga and Breathwork) and Culinary Medicine. And in 2009, founded a nonprofit organization called Be Alright which supports survivors of domestic violence and Chicago-area DV shelters. Her life's mission is to relieve suffering through mindfulness, kindness, joy and the promotion of compassion.



Veronica Ramirez, MD, FACP

Hospitalist

UCLA Health

Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor,
Department of Medicine

*David Geffen School of Medicine of
UCLA*

Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Veronica Ramirez is a Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine of UCLA. She is board certified in Internal Medicine and she has worked as a hospitalist for UCLA Health since 2016. Since 2019, Dr. Ramirez has served as the Clinical Lead for the UCLA Downtown Hospitalist Cohort, which provides inpatient care to patients at Barlow Respiratory Hospital, California Hospital Medical Center, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital. Dr. Ramirez worked closely with Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital to educate the Latinx community of South Los Angeles about the COVID-19 vaccine, via media campaigns as well as pop-up vaccination clinics throughout South Los Angeles.

Dr. Ramirez is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrants and the first in her family to become a physician. She graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Biology. She obtained her medical degree from the Keck School of Medicine of USC, and she completed her internship and residency in Internal Medicine at LAC+USC Medical Center. Her professional interests include mentorship, community advocacy, and medical education. She has served as a faculty interviewer for DGSOM, and she was recently appointed the new faculty co-advisor for the First-Gen group at the medical school. Dr. Ramirez has also enjoyed teaching and mentoring medical students and residents on the wards at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, as well as for the new Internal Medicine residency program at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital.