PRIME-LC Quinceñera - Members of the first PRIME cohort celebrating 15 years of PRIME-LC with a Dr. Manetta. The fiesta wouldn’t be complete without mariachis!

PRIME-LC Masters *familia* on their international rotation in Peru!

Prime-LC Class of 2023 with Dra. Sarmiento, Dr. Vega, Dr. Billimek, and Lucero.
"This is the time of year when we think about family and togetherness, and I continue to be inspired by our own PRIME-LC family and the culture of support and warmth that students and alumni have built together. Moving forward toward 200 PRIME-LC graduates, this culture becomes ever more important in creating not just means to support individual students and physicians but broad networks with the power to create social change. PRIME-LC plans to invest in these networks in the coming years to make our program even stronger in addressing health disparities faced by Latinos. Que tengas unas buenas vacaciones!" - Dr. Vega

"I recently heard a quote attributed to a famous Hollywood actor--something to the effect of: “If you are so fortunate to make it to the top in this business, it is your responsibility to send the elevator to pick up the next person.” I thought immediately of PRIME-LC medical students who themselves overcome challenge after challenge to rise in their journey to become physician leaders. And every step of the way, PRIMErs take the time to extend a hand to others. Through the activity of our Student Advisory Council, LMSA, Longitudinal Project teams and other groups, PRIME-LC students are taking the lead to find new ways to mentor their “near peers” at different stages in their career journeys, while partnering with community organizations in activism, education and augmenting the voices of community members. As the first of the UC PRIME programs, we also reach out in solidarity with our sister programs around the state, and will celebrate our collective impact by hosting the 2019 PRIME Statewide Conference at UC Irvine. In this holiday season, as we reflect on all the things we are grateful for, don’t forget to appreciate how your talents and achievements also elevate others.” - Dr. Billimek
Moménto de Reflexión

Fellow PRIMERs. Enjoy your time at UCI because it goes by fast. Soon you will find yourself on residency interviews contemplating where to take the next step on your journey. My travels during interviews has led me to have many thought provoking conversations with fellow applicants and it has allowed me reflect on what an amazing program we have here at UCI through PRIME-LC. Our rich experience via our additional curriculum exploring the social, cultural and political currents that impact healthcare coupled with our additional master’s year is unparalleled. Although there will be varying times where you will feel that you are pushed to your extreme, realize that this unique transformational experience has rewards that are coming for the communities you desire to impact in the future and yourself. I am incredibly grateful to have been selected to be a part of this program four years ago and am thankful to Lucero, Dr. Vega, Jose Rea and Dr. Billimek who have been able to continuously run and improve our program. Also as an aside, realize that the circumstances will change when applying for residency. I know many of us expressed a sentiment similar to this when applying for medical school: “I will go wherever I am taken and will be lucky to be selected to any medical school.” Given the wealth of experience we bring to the table, when you find yourself on the interview trail, you will be the one asking tough questions to determine the right place for residency training that matches your values and ideals.

Eric Zuniga
MD/MBA Candidate
Class of 2019

PRIME-LC
2018-2019 Student Advisory Council

Presidents
Mackenzie Cater &
Ezequiel Andrade

Outreach and Recruitment
Cynthia Enriquez &
Dania Maldonado

Professional Development
Mariana Gomez &
Kaavya Cherukuri

Curriculum and Innovation
Briga Mullin &
Helen Joyce

AMSG Representative &
Historian
Andreea Dinicu,
Ruby Yoakim

Community Outreach &
Engagement
Eva Martinez &
Francisco Cerda
Spotlight: Introducing the Class of 2023

Jocelyn Joana Almanza
Lennox, CA
UCLA
Physiological Sciences

Marihan Nadir Attiah
Northridge, CA
UCLA
Psychobiology

Kate Irene Boudreau
Madison, CT
University of Connecticut
Double Major Biological and Psychological Sciences

Dania Cecibel Maldonado
Whittier, CA
UC Berkeley
Social Welfare

Marshall John Miner
Redlands, CA
BYU
Neuroscience

Yamini Patibandla
San Jose, CA
Johns Hopkins
Molecular and Cellular Biology

Louis Miguel Prado
Fort Lauderdale, FL
University of Miami
Molecular Biology and Econometrics

Sophia Shirzai
Fairfield, CA
UC Berkeley
Nutritional Sciences

Meril Tomy
Irvine, CA
Scripps College
Molecular Biology

Ruby Yoakim
Santa Clarita, CA
UC Irvine
Biological Sciences
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Albert Zlotnik Retires

Dr. Zlotnik is an internationally recognized immunologist/molecular biologist with over twenty years experience in both academic science and biotechnology. He has extensive experience in chemokine biology and cancer, and is a highly innovative scientist experienced in the molecular characterization of human diseases using genomic-microarray technologies. He has been an integral part of the PRIME faculty, as he has served as a bridge between healthcare systems in the U.S. and Baja California, Mexico. We would like thank him for all his support and guidance. We wish him a happy retirement!

Meet Our New Primers!

Izzy Nedungada

Favorite pass time: "Hum along with his daddy as he plays the guitar and signs for him"

Update: Julián Zúñiga

"When he is not plotting to take over the world and over-run them with hot-wheels you can find him at a nearby park going up and down the slide for hours on end"

Congratulations to more of the newest PRIME Members!

Aiden O'Brien Guerrero & Kaya Niechayev

Leonard Pascal Pipkin Alarcón

"He enjoys reading Huevos Verdes con Jamón & Donde viven los Monstruos, going on walks, trying new foods (avocado is a current favorite, true SoCal baby), and dancing to James Brown, Steve Wonder & whatever his mom makes up."
Outreach and Recruitment Updates
Cynthia Enriquez, MBA Masters and Dania Maldonado, MS1

UCI LMSA/SNMA 17th Annual Pre-Health Conference
On November 3rd, LMSA and SNMA hosted the 17th Annual Pre-Health Conference at the UCI Student Center. This year’s theme was “The Minority Majority: Our Road to Success”, where we focused on providing attendees a variety of speakers and workshops outlining different paths in making impactful change in healthcare. It was a pleasure to have PRIME-LC Alumna, Dr. Sarah Lopez, as our keynote speaker! We had about 250 attendees at the conference and had a variety of pre-health programs and organizations present as exhibitors. It was humbling and inspiring to see minority physicians, health professional students, and pre-health students connecting and networking to create a future workforce that accurately displays the minority majority we see in our communities. A huge thank you to all who helped organize and volunteer at the conference!

UCLA MEDPEP Annual Pre-Health Conference

Another dedicated group of PRIME-LC students attended UCLA’s Médicos, Enfermeros, y Dentistas Para el Pueblo (MEDPEP) Annual Pre-Health Conference. Many students had not heard of PRIME-LC and were enthusiastic about our program, and we were happy to reconnect with many other students that had previously attended our own LMSA/SNMA conference.

Dania Maldonado MS1, and Oscar Hernandez, Mackenzie Cater, and Ezequiel Andrade Masters students (at right) spoke to conference attendees, many from community colleges, about PRIME-LC, paths to medical school, and insight into admissions.
Community Engagement

**PRIME Statewide Conference**
A group of 18 PRIME-LC students, including members of each class, attended this year’s PRIME Statewide Conference, hosted by UC Davis and themed “Celebrating Diversity Through Community Engagement.” The group attended many inspiring talks and discussions, led workshops on topics including cultural humility and structural competency, and got to know PRIMErs from other schools!

![Image of conference participants](image1.jpg)

**Migrant Caravan: How can we help?**

As many of you are aware, the situation at the border right now is one that demands our attention. Many efforts have been initiated to help provide aid and medical care to the families that have been through endless amounts of hardship over the past couple weeks. If you would like to help, below are some efforts that you can get involved with:

1. **Border Angels:** Border Angels is an all volunteer, non profit organization in San Diego that advocates for human rights, humane immigration reform, and social justice with a special focus on issues related to issues related to the US-Mexican border. They have started special efforts to provide Caravan Aid in Tijuana, California. Please check out their website for information on items you can donate as well as a link to their GoFundMe page: [https://www.borderangels.org/campaigns/support-caravan-tijuana/](https://www.borderangels.org/campaigns/support-caravan-tijuana/)

2. **Refugee Health Alliance:** Refugee Health Alliance was start by Dr. Margarita Loeza from UCLA in order to provide medical care to the refugees at the border. She along with other volunteers have been organizing medical mission trips down to Tijuana on the following dates: 12/8, 12/22, 1/5, and 1/12. Sign up for a trip here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1j_y1KyhYClX6rG-Ns_0-LRyBZNF-11XPR45gwOigu1k](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1j_y1KyhYClX6rG-Ns_0-LRyBZNF-11XPR45gwOigu1k)

   Please contact Dr. Margarita Loeza at Mlozea@mednet.ucla.edu if you have any questions! If you cannot make a trip, consider donating to the GoFundMe here: [https://www.gofundme.com/medical-brigade-to-aid-refugees?member=1115364](https://www.gofundme.com/medical-brigade-to-aid-refugees?member=1115364)

3. **Donation Box in MedEd Lounge:** A donation box will be placed in the MedEd lounge so that you may drop off jackets, blankets, food, and hygiene items. Your donation can go a long way!
Primero Tú Foundation: Launch Event

Primero Tú Foundation started by alumni of the PRIME-LC program had its Launch event on August 25th 2018. The event was held at Alta Baja Market in Santa Ana and many of the PRIME-LC Alumni and Santa Ana community partners were in attendance to help support the event. It has been such an inspiration for all of PRIME-LC to see what we can create when we come together. The Primero Tú board hopes to plan more events like this in the future to continue fundraising efforts and building the organization. If you have any suggestions as to how Primero Tú could use the funds raised to benefit the greater Latino community, please email PK Fonsworth at peolia.fonsworth@uci.edu!

"Please stay tuned for more events in the future. We are looking forward to growing with your support." - PK Fonsworth

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Annual Student/Alumni Retreat
Jan 20, 2019
Santa Ana, CA

Scholarship Opportunity
NMF Primary Care Leadership Program
Application due February 13 2019

PRIME-LC Recognition Dinner
May 30, 2019

Match Day!
March 15, 2019
UCI Med Ed Patio

Commencement
June 1, 2019
¡Felicidades!

Congratulations to our PRIME-LC students on their scholarship awards, achievements, and recognitions!

Scholar in Residence, UCI Dream Center

Oscar Hernandez Dominguez, MBA Candidate

This year, Oscar was selected as a Graduate Scholar-in-Residence for the UCI DREAM Center! As a Scholar-in-Residence, he develops workshops and holds one-on-one office hours to inform UCI undergrad students about applying to and navigating graduate and professional school as an undocumented student. He will also work with a team to coordinate the “Rising Together, Thriving Together” Conference for undocumented UCI undergrad students in January 2019! He will also work with a team to coordinate the “Rising Together, Thriving Together” Conference for undocumented UCI undergrad students in January 2019, and will mentor five undocumented UCI undergrad students through the application process for a research position or other professional development opportunity in summer quarter.

Jose Ygnacio Anguiano Sandoval, MD, Memorial Scholarship

Dania Maldonado, MS1

Dania Maldonado was awarded the 3rd Annual Jose Ygnacio Anguiano Sandoval, MD Memorial Scholarship for the 2018-2019 Academic year. This scholarship is awarded to a first-year medical student who will continue the legacy of Dr. Sandoval as a future physician, mentoring and teaching others whose goal is to serve in the Latino community. Our own Dr. John Billimek will be presenting this award to Dania on December 13th at the Madison Park Neighborhood Association Holiday Posada.

PRIME Statewide Conference Poster Presentation

Laura Cuevas, MS2

Laura Cuevas presented two posters at the Annual 2018 PRIME Statewide Conference. This past summer, Laura, along with 6 other UCI medical students, conducted 2 research studies while providing medical care to patients at Bocas del Toro, Panama. The first study focused on creating and administering a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey on tuberculosis communities to establish the level of baseline knowledge that individuals have regarding transmission and treatment of TB along with cultural stigma. In the second research project, UCI student performed carotid artery ultrasound and administered a cardiovascular informational survey to the same communities to look at the correlation between carotid artery intima-media thickness (CIMT) and cardiovascular disease risk factors.
Social Activism: Public Charge

What is Public Charge?
"Public charge" is a term used in immigration law to refer to a person who is likely to become dependent on the government for financial and material support. A person who the government determines is likely to become a "public charge" may be denied admission to the U.S. or Lawful Permanent Resident status. This issue most often arises for people applying for admission through a family petition, and does not apply to refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Juveniles, U and T visa beneficiaries, and those who are self-petitioning through the Violence Against Women Act and other groups.

What is the proposal?
On October 10, 2018, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officially published the "public charge" regulatory proposal that would significantly expand the list of public benefits that could pose barriers to immigrants' ability to obtain permanent residence via family or employment channels and prevent many from switching between non-immigrant statuses. New programs included include SNAP ("food stamps", public housing, and Medicaid/Medi-Cal. They are also considering adding the Children's Health Insurance Plan to this list. This would disproportionately harm communities of color including 33.4% of all Latinos.

It is already harming vulnerable communities.
The proposed changes have already caused immigrant families to forego needed health care and benefits or go hungry in an effort to keep their families together, called the chilling effect. SNAP enrollment has decreased for the first time in ten years. It is estimated that 4.8 million children in need of medical attention live in households with at least one noncitizen adult and are covered by Medicaid or CHIP - please remember to comment against the inclusion of CHIP in the rule.

How do we fight it?
These proposed regulations must go through a 60-day public comment period before being finalized by the administration. Once finalized, this implementation may be delayed due to lawsuits challenging the new rule. We need as many comments as possible to slow down the rule change as the administration must reply to all unique comments (please avoid templates); comments buy time for lawsuits to be put in place, and we would like this to still be held up in court until the next Presidential election, when a new administration can.

Many PRIMErs are working on action against the administration’s proposed changes to the “Public Charge” rule, including current master’s year students Isaure Hostetter (MPH, Harvard), Mackenzie Cater (MBA, UCI), Oscar Hernandez-Dominguez (MBA, UCI), and Ezequiel Andrade (MPH, UCI), MS1 Dania Maldonado, and recent alumna Kara Percival, MD, MPH (Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital - Oakland).

Help fight this xenophobic, discriminatory proposal, submit your comment by December 10, 2018!
https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/

For more details and access to research resources, comment writing guides, and a slideshow to host your own teach-in, please email hostettli@uci.edu!
¡Nos Vemos Pronto!