

UCI PRIME-LC Newsletter

December 2018, Issue 6





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.

Director's Remarks



Dr. Charles Vega, MD Executive Director

"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



Dr. John Billimek, PhD
Director, Community
Engagement and
Administration

"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 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 and achievements also elevate others." - Dr. Billimek

Momento 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 to 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



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 genomicmicroarray technologies. He has been an integral part of the
PRIME faculty, as he has served as a bridge between
healtchare 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!



Update: Julián Zúñiga



Izzy Nedungada

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

"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



"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.

Leonard Pascal Pipkin Alarcón

Community Engagement

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 path 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 work force 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 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!







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 some are some efforts that you can get involved with:

- 1. <u>Border Angels</u>: 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/
- 2. <u>Refugee Health Alliance</u>: 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_ylKyhYClX6rG-Ns_0-LRyBZNF-11XPR45gwOlGU1k

Please contact Dr. Margarita Loeza at Mloeza@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

3. <u>Donation Box in MedEd Lounge</u>: 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 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







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 Aungiano 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 created 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 hostetti@uci.edu!



¡Nos Vemos Pronto!