

# PRIME TIMES

THE OFFICIAL UCI PRIME-LC NEWSLETTER

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## PRIME-Wide through Time

From January 24-26th, UC Irvine PRIME-LC hosted the annual PRIME Statewide conference at the Delhi Center in Santa Ana with the theme of the conference as PRIME-Wide through Time, focusing on the past, present, and future of PRIME. The conference was kicked off with a joint keynote from **Dr. Robert Ross**, CEO of the California Endowment, and **Dr. Michael Drake**, Former UCI Chancellor and current president of The Ohio State University. They advised students of all PRIME programs to "stay connected with each other...Stay proximate to the voices and experiences of impacted communities." Also in attendance was **Dr. Alberto Manetta**, former director of UCI PRIME-LC. These three leaders were pivotal in the creation of the first PRIME program ever at UCI, and they reminded us of the impact the combination of passion, dedication, and connection can have.

The 3 day conference was filled with activities starting with a poster presentation session on Friday evening. Our very own **Kate Boudreau** and **Yamini Patibandla** won 1st place for their poster on "Investigating Interpreter Services at UCI Family Health Center, Santa Ana". Saturday was filled with workshops and presentations by students, members of the Santa Ana community, and other guests on a variety of topics from Gender Neutral Spanish to Structural Competency and much more.

This year PRIME-LC decided to start a new tradition at Statewide called the Unity Event which was designed to bring all the PRIME programs together by inviting over 50 pre-med mentees from backgrounds that are under-represented in medicine to join us for small-group discussions intended for the mentees to be able to make a personal connection with PRIME students. PRIME-LC alumnus, **Dr. Marco Angulo**, and current PRIME-LC MS3, **Alejandro Aviña**, shared with the students their unique paths to medicine and gave inspiring advice to the future of PRIME. The evening was filled with delicious food and an amazing performance from Ballet Folklórico de Los Angeles. **AltaMed** and **PRIME-LC Alumni** additionally sponsored a happy hour where students were able to network and connect with PRIME graduates.

This incredible event would not have been possible without our dedicated Statewide committee headed by **Cynthia Enriquez** and **Allan Winger**, incredible PRIME-LC faculty & leadership, and PRIME-LC community. Here's to looking forward to future PRIME times!

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## Meril Tomy, MS2

As an Albert Schweitzer Fellow, she started implementing mindfulness and meditation classes in the summer of 2019 through MPNA and ALMA at James Madison Elementary. She's touched on topics such as Anxiety, Depression, Stress and Coping with mental illness for the people in Santa Ana. She's made a huge difference and we're so proud of her contributions to improving our community!



## Oscar Hernandez, MS4

Oscar was the *only* medical student to do an oral presentation on "Delayed Gastric Emptying increases risk of mortality in patients undergoing Whipple for Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma" at the 15th annual Academic Surgical Congress earlier this month in Orlando, Florida. Congrats to Oscar for such an outstanding achievement!

## Brenda Gutierrez, MSTP

Brenda recently presented a poster titled "Stimulation of blood vessel formation by human neural stem/progenitor cells is mediated by secreted material" at the annual International Stroke Conference in LA this past weekend. Congrats to Brenda on her presentation! Brenda is currently working with Dr. Lisa Flanagan on stroke and stem cell research at UCI.

# Spotlights of the Month



## Shaili Patel

New Primer, MSI

Shaili is a Bay Area native who graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Molecular & Cellular Biology. There, she led a student-run healthcare interpreting organization, and helped train interpreters across 6 different languages, something that deepened her drive to work with culturally and linguistically underserved communities. Shaili strives to become a culturally sensitive physician and an advocate for the Latinx community. She currently serves as the LMSA Medical Spanish Coordinator, Sex Ed Advocates Outreach Director, and is on the PRIME Statewide Council. Outside of school and extracurricular activities, Shaili loves dancing salsa and bachata, so if you're looking for a dance partner or a fellow activist for Latinx community, let her know!

## Kenneth Robertson-Brown

New Primer, MSI

Kenny is a SoCal native from Venice, CA who attended Santa Monica College but then transferred to UCLA. Upon graduating in 2016, he applied and completed the UCI Post-Bacc program in 2018. He's worked as an Ophthalmic Technician for the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic and helped deliver free vision care to underserved communities. As a first-gen, he joined the PRIME-LC familia to inspire and aid those from under-represented communities and to help them achieve professions in healthcare. He's currently a PRIME SAC Board Member, a World of Medicine Board Member, the LMSA Co-Chair, and one of the most caring individuals you'll ever meet.



## Eva Martinez

Graduating MS4

### What do you love most about PRIME-LC?

What I love most about PRIME-LC is the amazing family I was given since the first day of PRIME summer. All the PRIMERS are so wonderful and passionate about all they do in the community, which is very refreshing. I will never forget the memories I have shared with many of you, especially my AMAZING cohort!

### What field of medicine are you going into and why?

I am going into THE BEST SPECIALTY EVER- Pediatrics!!! The optimism that most children carry with them is so inspiring and keeps me going. I also love the added benefit of reaching pediatric patients at an early age where I can start to empower them and educate them to become involved in their healthcare as they mature into adults. I would also have to say that infants, toddlers, kids, and teenagers are all very fun and cute throughout the various stages.

### What one piece of advice do you have for other PRIMERS?

Don't be afraid or scared to stand up for vulnerable patients (of course in a respectable manner). Many of these patients have no voice, do not know how to use their voice, or even when to use it - so *speak up* for them or empower them to speak up for themselves. Also, always take the time to educate your patients and keep them updated in a manner that they understand. Being in the hospital or clinic can get very busy, but if you don't take the time then you are missing a large opportunity to uplift and advocate for those who many of us went into medicine for.



## Mariana Gomez

Graduating MS4

### What do you love most about PRIME-LC?

As cliché as this may sound, I love being part of our fantastic familia! The PRIME Statewide Conference experience highlighted to me why our program and members are so unique, in particular, our strong network. PLC is a unique and rare resource that has opened opportunities and allowed to explore how we can better serve our patients throughout my medical school education

### What field of medicine are you going into and why?

Anesthesiology! Even though it may not be initially apparent, the field has lots of potential with opportunities to implement our PRIME training to provide excellent patient care. From the pre-operative area speaking to patients and their families in their native language to guiding them during their most vulnerable times in the ICU, we have the ability to enact change. I hope to one day be involved in developing programs within hospital systems to either pre-operatively optimize patients or provide post-ICU follow up care using telemedicine for geographically distant patients (most being medically underserved).

### What one piece of advice do you have for other PRIMERS?

Take a deep breath and have faith that you will get there! You've made it this far and have proven to be incredibly resilient. I could not have made this journey without the support of my PLC peers. Their support in the form of humor, tissues, gummy bears, and brainstorming how to respond to adverse situations more effectively, has made all the difference. Your PLC peers are your most valuable resource and will be there during your high's and low's.

## Public Charge: U.S. Supreme Court Ruling

The Supreme Court ruling on January 27th 2020 will allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to implement its **Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds** final rule starting **February 24th** 2020 for every state in the U.S. except for Illinois. To break this down further, a **public charge**, as defined by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services is "an individual who is likely to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence, as demonstrated by either the receipt of public cash assistance for income maintenance, or institutionalization for long-term care at government expense." Benefits subject to public charge consideration include: Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash assistance from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program state or local cash assistance programs for income maintenance, often called "general assistance" program, and federally-funded Medicaid. Therefore, any individual who is using or is likely to use any of the mentioned benefits could be decided as inadmissible or ineligible for legal permanent residency.

Not all immigrants are subject to public charge. Specifically immigrants seeking permanent residence through family member petitions that submit an application AFTER February 24th may be negatively affected by this ruling. This ruling may also deter many people from using necessary and vital resources due to fear that their application for permanent residence may be rejected. It is important to remember that there are public resources **not** factored into public charge, some of which are the following: Medicaid for those <21 years old, Medicaid while pregnant, Emergency Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, Nutrition Programs (e.g. SNAP, WIC), & many more!

Please read [this fact sheet](#) (available in English and Spanish) to learn more and provide resources for your patients!

## Instituto de Salud Para el Bienestar

As of January 2020, Mexico introduced their new healthcare program called Instituto de Salud Para el Bienestar (INSABI) which replaced the previously known Seguro Popular. The goal of INSABI is to provide access to health care and medication coverage to individuals without social security in Mexico. However, during this transition period, many refugees have been left without insurance and therefore without access to care. Below is a modified message from Refugee Health Alliance regarding this issue:

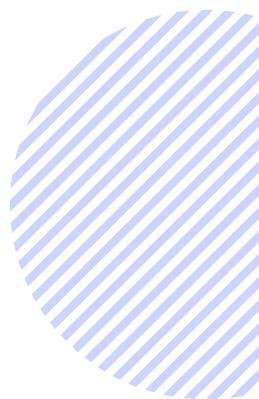
Refugee Health Alliance (RHA) is an organization that has been supporting the provision of medical care to refugee and migrant populations in Tijuana since November of 2018. RHA has been able to refer women for prenatal and birthing care through a local midwife who has been working in Tijuana for years practicing midwifery and herbal medicine. Due to lack of Seguro Popular, pregnant women are being turned away from hospitals when they cannot pay the bill. More and more women are turning to the RHA network, to deliver their babies and ensure that they get the appropriate birth certification completed for their newborns. In the next month alone there are 17 births anticipated in the local shelters, far beyond what the local midwife can accommodate on her own. Here is how **WE** can help:

- 1) **DONATE** funds that can be used for: linens, laundry services, birthing supplies, prenatal vitamins, medications, ambulance and hospital bills, newborn clothes, diapers, birth certification fees, vaccinations, and other specialty services. Please click on the GoFundMe page to donate [here](#)
- 2) **Spread the word** to your network so that others can donate or offer assistance and expertise (Lawyers, activists, grant writers for funding, etc.) This is NOT a short-term crisis, and we can help advocate for long-term solutions.
- 3) **Volunteer:** We are looking particularly for experienced **MIDWIVES** who are willing to come down and help out with deliveries and prenatal care ASAP, any time, any day of the week. General volunteers are needed to be on the ground in Tijuana to help coordinate our efforts. We are looking for a full-time coordinator for the month of April and going forward as well.
  - **Clinicians** may volunteer for our weekday clinic or Saturday shelter outreach. We need providers to staff our weekday clinic as soon as 3/23 and going forward
  - **Pharmacists** and pharmacy student volunteers interested in collaborating longterm to help us develop and coordinate our formulary should please reach out.

Please contact us at RHA: [refugeehealthalliance@gmail.com](mailto:refugeehealthalliance@gmail.com)

## ALMA UCI Medical Center Visit

On Saturday, February 1st, around 70 students from Madison Elementary's ALMA program visited UCI medical center to learn more about the medical field. These students spend almost every Saturday throughout the school year learning about the STEM related fields, and every year, they make a trip to the UCI Medical Center to participate in a variety of activities that expose them to the many procedural skills used in medicine. The students rotated through 5 different stations: ultrasound, suturing, Da Vinci Robot, pelvic trainers, and cystoscopy station. UCI and UCLA LCCM mentors and UCI PRIME-LC medical students were present to help inspire these young scholars and guide them through the activities. The day was filled with curious questions from the ALMA scholars and insightful conversations about the field of medicine. We hope these young scholars being future PRIMERS one day!



## Future Outreach Events

**February 29th:** UCI SOM Open Medical School

**February 29th:** UCLA LCCM Pre-Health Conference

**April 15th, 2020:** California State University Long Beach (CSULB) Annual Health Professions Conference

**May 1st, 2020:** 13th Bi-Annual Health Professions Conference at Mt. San Antonio College

For more details about each event and to sign up to attend and represent PRIME-LC for any of the above events, please click [here](#).

## 36th Annual LMSA West Regional Conference

*Potenciar El Cambio: Empowering Interconnection in Healthcare to Promote Change*  
March 13 - 14th 2020 @ UC Irvine, please click [here](#) for tickets and details.

**Friday, March 13th** from **5-8pm**: **Networking/Residency Fair Event** for medical students and physicians. Medical students will have the time to talk one-to-one to residency directors from across the nation from various specialties.

## Ven a Pintar un Mural Comunitario

On **Saturday, March 7th** from **4-7pm**, El Centro Cultural de México is hosting a **Community Painting Night** where a 6 peice mural will be painted in collaboration with community members. The intention is to make a declaration about the necessities, uncertainties and hopes that the community is experiencing. They would love to have PRIME-LC community (especially MSIs) come out and show some support.

Check out the [Facebook Event](#) for more details

## Structural Competency Conference at UC Riverside

**What:** How We Heal: Applying Structural Competency to Care for Immigrant Communities

**When:** Saturday, 7 March 8am-5pm

**Where:** UC Riverside Pentland Hills Bear Cave

Register by clicking [this link](#)

Please contact Helen Joyce (hjoyce@hs.uci.edu) or Kenny Robertson-Brown (kwrober1@hs.uci.edu) if you are interested in carpooling.

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