



THE LATINO CANCER INSTITUTE
Connect. Convene. Advocate.

The Latino Cancer Institute, in collaboration with the FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence,
National Hispanic Family Cancer Awareness Week, Sept 20-26th, presents

September 20 - October 25, 2024

Virtual Friday Forum Series Program Book



**Talking about cancer won't kill us,
the silence will!**



September 20 - October 25, 2024

Friday Forum Series

Sept. 20 Trends in Cancer We Can't Afford to Ignore Anymore!

Sept. 27 Genetic Findings Driving Blood Cancer in Latinos

Oct. 4 One Step Forward, Two Steps Back - Advances and Barriers in Latina Breast Cancer

Oct. 11 How Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Health Tech Intersect in Latino Lives

Oct. 18 Can the HPV Vaccine Help Conquer Latina Cervical Cancer?

6th Annual National Forum

Oct. 25 A National Perspective on the Impact of Cancer Research, Leadership, and Engagement within the Latino Community



**Talking about cancer won't kill us,
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1st in the virtual Friday Forum Series Sept 20th - Oct 25th

The Latino Cancer Institute, in collaboration with the *FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence*,
Hispanic Family Cancer Awareness Week, Sept 20 -26th, presents

Trends in Cancer We Can't Afford to Ignore Anymore!

September 20, 2024

9:00 am - 10:30 am PST • 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT • 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm EST



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Trends in Cancer We Can't Afford to Ignore Anymore!



The Evolving Nature of Gastric Cancer

Constanza Camargo, PhD
National Cancer Institute

[Dr. Maria Constanza Camargo](#) is an Earl Stadtman Investigator in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute, United States. Her research focuses on Helicobacter pylori infection, premalignant gastric lesions, and gastric cancer. Dr. Camargo's program combines studies on cancer causation with projects that may have translational application for cancer screening, prevention, and treatment.



Fatty Liver Disease in Hispanic Communities: A Silent Epidemic

David O. Garcia, PhD
FACSM, University of Arizona

[Dr. David Garcia](#) is an Associate Professor in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. He has extensive experience in short and long-term intervention trials in the areas of physical activity, diet, and weight management. He received his training from leading institutions and mentors in the field. Dr. Garcia has designed and implemented trials as a lead investigator focused on reducing obesity-related health disparities among Mexican-origin adults. He is among the first to develop gender and culturally-sensitive weight loss interventions for Hispanic males.



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Trends in Cancer We Can't Afford to Ignore Anymore!



Addressing Colorectal Cancer Disparities Among Latino Populations through Patient Engagement and Education

Mariana Stern, PhD
Keck School of Medicine of USC

[Dr. Mariana Stern](#) is a Professor of Population Public Health Sciences & Urology and the Ira Goodman Chair in Cancer Research at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. She is also the Associate Director of Population Science at the Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, and currently serves as Director of master's degree programs in Epidemiology. She is a cancer epidemiologist with a PhD in Cancer Biology from the University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and post-doctoral training in epidemiology obtained at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).



Obesity, Cancer and Health Disparities Research

Noe Crespo, PhD, MPH
San Diego State University, School of Public Health

[Dr. Noe Crespo](#)'s research focuses on reducing health disparities and conducting multi-level community- and family-based interventions to prevent chronic disease among Latinos and underserved populations. He has experience conducting multi-level and large-scale interventions to promote physical activity and healthy eating in schools, clinics and recreation centers. Dr. Crespo also studies the health consequences of sedentary behavior and conducts behavioral interventions to reduce sedentary behavior in worksites. More recently, he has conducted research to develop and test effective strategies to prevent COVID-19, increase testing for COVID-19 and increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake among underserved communities.



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Trends in Cancer We Can't Afford to Ignore Anymore!



FDA Launches National Hispanic/Latino Family Cancer Awareness Week

Luckson Mathieu, MD
FDA Oncology Center of Excellence

The purpose of National Hispanic/Latino Family Cancer Awareness Week, *An Oncology Center of Excellence Project Community Initiative* is to increase cancer awareness within the Hispanic/Latino population. National Hispanic/Latino Family Cancer Awareness Week aims to gather community-based groups to increase cancer awareness and build knowledge surrounding cancer clinical trial participation as well as increasing understanding of ways to contribute to national genetic databases for cancer research.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

¡Avanzando Juntos! Moving Forward Together!
#LatinoCancer



Conversations on Cancer: National Hispanic/Latino Family Cancer Awareness Week, September 20-26, 2024

Friday, September 20

OCE Conversation on Cancer public panel discussion.

Monday, September 23

Learn how environment risks impact cancer development.

Saturday, September 21

Understand infection-related cancers and potential interventions.

Tuesday, September 24

Learn more about cancer research and clinical trials.

Sunday, September 22

Engage "La Familia" to address cancer risk factors (environmental, behavioral, and lifestyle).

Wednesday, September 25

Learn how to involve your family to be more proactive in cancer treatments and provide support to patients, caregivers, and patient advocates/navigators.

Thursday, September 26

Understand and support cancer quality of life and cancer survivorship.





2nd in the virtual Friday Forum Series Sept 20th - Oct 25th

The Latino Cancer Institute in partnership with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society recognize Blood Cancer Awareness Month

Genetic Findings Driving Blood Cancer in Latinos

September 27, 2024

9:00 am - 10:30 am PST • 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT • 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm EST



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Genetic Findings Driving Blood Cancer in Latinos



Raising Awareness of Leukemia in the Latinx Community

Noah Merin, MD, PhD
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

[Dr. Noah Merin](#) is a hematologist/oncologist who completed his training at the Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Hospital. Serving a predominantly Latino patient population, Dr. Merin quickly recognized the high prevalence of leukemia among this demographic. Epidemiological and genetic research confirmed the unique risks faced by Latinos. Through clinical trials, he contributed to the development of improved treatments for leukemia. Since completing his training in 2016, Merin has worked at Cedars Sinai Medical Center, specializing in leukemia and allogeneic stem cell transplantation. Approximately half of his patients are Spanish-speaking, and he performs around 25 stem cell transplants annually, many for patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Merin has gained a deep understanding of the support needs of Latino patients undergoing treatment and has worked to simplify the process, allowing for quicker and more efficient care.



Investigating the Genetic Risk of Acute Lymphoblastic leukemia in Hispanic/Latino Children

Adam de Smith, PhD
University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine

[Dr. Adam de Smith](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Genetic Epidemiology and the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences, at the USC Keck School of Medicine, and he is a Scholar of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. His research is focused on understanding the causes of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), with a particular interest in the increased risk of ALL in children of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.



September 27, 2024

9:00 am - 10:30 am PST • 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT • 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm EST

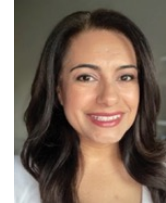
Genetic Findings Driving Blood Cancer in Latinos



**Latino Pediatric Patient / Parent
Circumstances Influencing Cancer Care**

Henry Garcia, EdD
USC Rossier School of Education

Dr. Henry Garcia is a leader in the biopharmaceutical industry with over 25 years of career experience. He has launched over a dozen pharmaceutical products that treat various types of cancer, pulmonary fibrosis, and food borne allergies in children. He has worked for prestigious multinational organizations such as Roche/Genentech, Exelixis, and is currently serving as an Integration Officer with Nestle HealthScience. Dr. Garcia holds a Master of Science degree in Quality Assurance with a concentration in Change Management. He also holds a Doctor of Education in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California's renowned Rossier School of Education.



**Unifying Forces:
Bridging Science and Community
in the Fight Against Blood Cancer**

Charoh Hernandez Ortiz
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Charoh Hernandez Ortiz serves as the National Hispanic Outreach Manager for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). In this capacity, she manages LLS's nationwide initiatives, aimed at increasing awareness of blood cancer within Spanish-speaking families across the United States. Leading the charge in national outreach, education, and partnership-building, Charoh endeavors to foster trust and credibility among this demographic. Her efforts are dedicated to enhancing community engagement and access to linguistically and culturally appropriate blood cancer information, resources, education programs, and support.



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Genetic Findings Driving Blood Cancer in Latinos



Unifying Forces: Bridging Science and Community in the Fight Against Blood Cancer

Javier Macias
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

[Javier Macias](#) is the Senior Manager of Patient & Community Outreach - Underserved Communities at The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). He has been employed by LLS for more than twelve years. His primary objective is to promote LLS's minority-centered strategies to advance health equity initiatives and reduce the disparities for blood cancer patients in underrepresented communities across the regions. As a national representative of LLS, Mr. Macias' goal is to work in partnership with healthcare professionals, organization leaders, and community stakeholders to advance health equity initiatives for underrepresented communities across the country.





The Latino Cancer Institute presents

3rd in the virtual Friday Forum Series Sept 20th - Oct 25th

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back - Advances and Barriers in Latina Breast Cancer

October 4, 2024

9:00 am - 10:30 am PST • 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT • 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm EST



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One Step Forward, Two Steps Back – Advances and Barriers in Latina Breast Cancer



Trends in Breast Cancer in U.S. Latinas

Eliseo J. Perez-Stable, MD

Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)

[Dr. Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable](#) is Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and Principal Investigator in the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Pérez-Stable's research interests have centered on improving the health of racial/ethnic minorities and underserved populations, advancing patient-centered care, improving cross-cultural communication skills among health care professionals, and promoting diversity in the biomedical research workforce. Dr. Pérez-Stable is recognized as a leader in Latino health care and disparities research.



Working Towards Equity in Breast Cancer Risk Prediction and Prevention for Hispanic/Latinx Individuals

Laura Fejerman, MS, PhD

UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center

[Dr. Laura Fejerman](#) is a Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, co-director of the Women's Cancer Research and Care Program and Assistant Director of Education Training and Career Development at the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is also co-director of the Latinos United for Cancer Health Advancement Initiative (LUCHA). Dr. Fejerman's research focuses on the discovery of genetic and non-genetic factors that contribute to breast cancer risk and prognosis in Latinas. Her past work established a relationship between genetic ancestry and breast cancer risk, and subsequent research has built upon this observation, exploring genetic variants, through admixture mapping and genome-wide association approaches, as well as the possible environmental and lifestyle related factors, and ancestry-gene interactions.



October 4, 2024

9:00 am - 10:30 am PST • 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT • 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm EST

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back – Advances and Barriers in Latina Breast Cancer



Addressing Disparities in Genomic Testing for Breast Cancer

Manali I. Patel, MD, MPH, MS
Stanford University School of Medicine

[Dr. Manali I. Patel](#) is a medical Thoracic Oncologist and Health Services Researcher at the Stanford University School of Medicine and the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System. She obtained her MD and Masters in Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill and completed her Internal Medicine residency, fellowship in Hematology and Oncology, and Masters in Science in Health Services Research at Stanford University. Dr. Patel's research involves developing and evaluating interventions that overcome systems-level barriers to improve equitable, value-based cancer care delivery. Her expertise lies in designing, implementing, and evaluating new models of cancer care delivery with cancer stakeholders aimed to improve patient experiences with care, clinical outcomes, and reduce unwanted healthcare utilization and health disparities.



Accelerating Progress through Equity and Innovation: An Overview of the American Cancer Society's Strategic Initiatives

Sarah Shafir, MPH
National Roundtables & Coalitions, American Cancer Society

[Sarah Shafir](#) is the Vice President, National Roundtables & Coalitions for the American Cancer Society leading its national convening strategy that engages multi-sectored public and private organizations, diverse communities, and people with lived experiences through collective action to overcome the most pressing challenges impeding our progress in improving cancer outcomes. Ms. Shafir provides overall strategy; execution; data collection, tracking, and evaluation; and resource allocation support to its 6 mission-critical national roundtables focused on colorectal cancer, lung cancer, HPV vaccination, breast cancer, cervical cancer, and patient navigation. She serves as the co-Principal Investigator of the organization's technical assistance and training program for the 66 CDC-funded comprehensive cancer control programs and coalitions.





The Latino Cancer Institute presents

4th in the virtual Friday Forum Series Sept 20th - Oct 25th

How Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Health Tech Intersect in Latino Lives

October 11, 2024

9:00 am - 10:30 am PST • 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT • 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm EST



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How Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Health Tech Intersect in Latino Lives



Exploring the Role of AI in Enhancing Cancer Diagnosis and Care for Latino Communities

Enrique Velasquez Villarreal, MD, PhD, MPH, MS
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

[Dr. Velasquez-Villarreal](#) is a physician-scientist and computational geneticist specializing in Cancer Genomics, Cancer Disparities, Precision Medicine, and Artificial Intelligence. He is a faculty member at the City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, where his lab focuses on deciphering the molecular mechanisms of colorectal cancer in the Hispanic/Latino population. Dr. Velasquez-Villarreal currently serves as Co-Chair of the Health Equity Subcommittee at the Participant Engagement and Cancer Genome Sequencing (PE-CGS) Network, Cancer Moonshot Initiative, NIH/NCI, and is a member of the AACR Cancer Disparities Research Grants Scientific Review Committee.



AI Governance by Patients for Patients

Andrea Downing
The Light Collective

[Andrea Downing](#), a security researcher and advocate, has expressed significant concerns about health privacy, particularly in the context of online patient communities and the use of social media for support groups. Her work emphasizes the vulnerabilities and risks associated with the sharing and handling of sensitive health information in digital spaces. Downing's advocacy is rooted in her personal journey as a BRCA1 mutation "previvor," which has driven her to focus on privacy protection within the breast cancer community. She co-founded The Light Collective, aiming to create safe spaces on the internet where individuals can share their experiences and receive support without compromising their privacy.



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How Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Health Tech Intersect in Latino Lives



Crossroads of HealthCare and Innovation

Luis Belen

National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT)

[Luis Belen](#) is a health and health policy executive leader with experience catalyzing change at the highest levels of government and industry by building coalitions, influencing policy, supporting entrepreneurship and implementing solutions at the intersection of technology and health equity.

Belen is the Executive Director of The National HIT Collaborative for the Underserved, Inc. (NHIT®), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, established in 2008 by the Federal Government. NHIT is the nation's pre-eminent organization focused on achieving health equity and build thriving communities through catalyzing the development and use of health information technology through the organization's five pillars: Workforce, Innovation, Policy, Research, and Community.



Air Quality and Health issues in Communities of Color

Julio Garcia

Rise - South City

[Julio Garcia](#) has been a true champion and an environmental justice leader for the Latinx community in San Mateo County and throughout the Bay Area for the past 23 years.

Julio Garcia served as the Program Director of Nuestra Casa of East Palo Alto from 2009-2021, where he created programs that directly benefited BIPOC communities. He led the Environmental and Water Justice program from 2017-2020. During his time leading this program, Nuestra Casa served as one of 13 Outreach Partners selected by the San Francisco Bay Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Engagement Program, which was part of a statewide effort that was funded and administered by the California State Department of Water Resources (DWR).





The Latino Cancer Institute presents

5th in the virtual Friday Forum Series Sept 20th - Oct 25th

Can the HPV Vaccine Finally Conquer Latina Cervical Cancer?

October 18, 2024

9:00 am - 10:30 am PST • 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT • 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm EST



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Can the HPV Vaccine Finally Conquer Latina Cervical Cancer?



Within Our Reach: Toward the Elimination of Cervical Cancer Among Latinas

Jane R. Montealegre, PhD, MSPH
MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas

[Dr. Jane R. Montealegre](#) is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She is a Behavioral Epidemiologist with research expertise in the design, implementation, and evaluation of community- and health system-based interventions to address cancer health disparities. Much of her research focuses on the prevention and detection of cervical and other human papillomavirus (HPV)-associated cancers in underserved and minoritized populations. Dr. Montealegre has conducted extensive research on self-sample HPV testing to improve access to and acceptability of cervical cancer screening. Currently, she is principal investigator of an NIH-funded pragmatic randomized trial to evaluate if mailed self-sample HPV testing kits can cost-effectively increase cervical cancer screening participation among underserved minority women in a safety net system and evaluate patient navigation as a strategy to increase participation in home-based screening. Her HPV vaccination research includes implementation of multi-component programs to increase HPV vaccination in safety net health systems and implementation of school-based vaccination in the Texas-Mexico border region.



Alternative schedules of HPV Vaccines to Increase Access and Eliminate Cervical Cancer: the NCI-Costa Rica Studies

Rolando Herrero, MD, PhD
Scientific Director, Costa Rican Agency for Biomedical Research

Rolando Herrero is a Medical Oncologist and Epidemiologist with nearly 40 years of experience in research on infection-related cancers and preventive interventions, with an emphasis on human papillomavirus-related infections and cancers. He has designed and conducted multiple studies involving tens of thousands of participants around the world, including several HPV vaccine trials.

His current research focuses mainly on the evaluation of alternative schedules of HPV vaccines in different age groups to facilitate implementation in low resource settings and accelerate cervical cancer elimination targets of the WHO. More recently he is conducting research on the immune response to SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination. He is a member of the Costa Rican Academy of Sciences and the author of more than 400 scientific publications and has received the Fred L Soper Award from the Pan American Health Foundation and the Costa Rican National Science Prize.



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On the Road to Cervical Cancer Elimination: Are We There Yet?

Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH
The University of Arizona, ACS National Cervical Roundtable Steering Committee

[Dr. Francisco Garcia](#) is the Distinguished Outreach Professor of Public Health, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Mexican American Studies and Clinical Pharmacy at the University of Arizona. His research and clinical expertise is in the area of pre-malignant cervical disease and human papillomavirus infection affecting the female lower genital tract, and the evaluation of new technologies and therapeutics for cervical cancer precursors. Dr. Garcia also has a long established interest in the cancer prevention among US-Mexico Border, Southwest American Indian, and Latin American populations. Dr. Garcia is a member of a variety of national committees including the NIH Advisory Committee for Research on Women's Health, the American Cancer Society Gynecologic Cancer Advisory Committee, and he is Chair of the ACS HPV Vaccine Clinical Guidelines Committee and the International Affairs Committee. He also leads the HPV Comprehensive Services Task Force of the Association for Reproductive Health Professionals and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.



Training Patient Navigators and CHWs in Latin America to Reduce Patients' Disparities

Nancy Peña, ACS-LION, ONP-CG, CMI, BS
Founder, Navegación de Pacientes Internacional, Inc., Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

[Nancy Peña](#) is a Lead Patient Navigator for Gynecologic Oncology clinics at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH). She has worked at DFCI/BWH since 2005, helping high-risk patients, with abnormal findings, and with a high risk of cervical cancer to access the right care and provides them with concrete resources to overcome barriers. Ms. Peña is also the Director and Founder of Navegación de Pacientes Internacional, Inc. (NPI), an organization that trains non-clinical and clinical patient navigators in Spanish in and out of the EE.UU. NPI has trained nurses and volunteer navigators that support low-income women and help them get access to health care in Latin America. In collaboration with other organizations, NPI is organizing the First Patient Navigation Congress in Latin America 2023.





6th in the virtual Friday Forum Series Sept 20th - Oct 25th

The Latino Cancer Institute presents

6th Annual National Forum

A National Perspective on the Impact of Cancer Research, Leadership, and Engagement within the Latino Community

October 25, 2024

9:00 am – 12:00 pm PST • 11:00 am – 2:00 pm CDT • 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST



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A National Perspective on the Impact of Cancer Research, Leadership, and Engagement within the Latino Community



Ask the Director

W. Kimryn Rathmell, MD, PhD, MMHC
Director, National Cancer Institute

[Dr. W. Kimryn Rathmell](#) was sworn in as the 17th NCI director on December 18, 2023. She previously led the Vanderbilt University Medical Center as physician-in-chief and chair of the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Rathmell is a recipient of the 2019 Louisa Nelson Award for Women of Achievement, Vision, and Inspiration, the 2019 Eugene P. Schonfeld Award from the Kidney Cancer Association, and the Paragon Award for Research Excellence from the Doris Duke Foundation. She was a leader of The Cancer Genome Atlas's (TCGA) kidney cancer projects and served as a TCGA analysis working group member across the spectrum of cancers, winning the 2020 American Association for Cancer Research Team Science Award. She has served on the NCI Board of Scientific Advisors, and the Forbeck Foundation Scientific Advisory Board. She has served on the NCI Board of Scientific Advisors, and the Forbeck Foundation Scientific Advisory Board.

Dr. Rathmell has held leadership positions with the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Society for Clinical Investigation, serving as secretary treasurer and president. As a result of her efforts, Dr. Rathmell has been elected to the Association of American Physicians, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Rathmell's specialty is the research and treatment of complex and hereditary kidney cancers. She also focuses on underlying drivers of kidney cancers using genetic, molecular, and cell biology to develop interventions to improve patients' lives. Dr. Rathmell's research has resulted in more than 250 articles in leading peer-reviewed journals, including *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Nature*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and *the Journal of Clinical Investigation*.



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A National Perspective on the Impact of Cancer Research, Leadership, and Engagement within the Latino Community



Latinos, Cancer, and the Critical Impact of Social Determinants of Health

Cynthia Mojica, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor, Public Health, College of Health
Oregon State University

[Dr. Cynthia Mojica](#) is an Associate Professor of public health in the College of Health at Oregon State University. She conducts cancer prevention and control research among ethnic minorities and underserved populations. She has worked with Hispanic/Latino, immigrant, low-income, Spanish-speaking, and medically underserved populations. Her work often includes research collaborations with communities and health centers, and she uses both quantitative and qualitative methods. Her research goal is to inform development of public health interventions to decrease cancer health disparities. Dr. Mojica earned her bachelor's degrees in biological sciences and psychology from UC Davis and her PhD in health services from UCLA.



Increasing Latino Cancer Patient Advocates through Training

Barbara Segarra-Vázquez, DHS

Faculty Member, University of Puerto Rico

[Bárbara Segarra-Vázquez](#) has been a faculty member at the University of Puerto Rico for more than 30 years and is the Principal Investigator of a R25 training program for young investigators funded by NIMHD. She is a two-time breast cancer survivor and is very active as a research advocate. One of her main efforts is to increase diversity in clinical trials. She is the co-chair of SWOG Cancer Network Patient Advocates Committee and a member of the Cancer Care Delivery Committee. She serves on the Susan G. Komen Advocates in Science Steering Committee and is also a member of the External Advisory Panel for the Participant Engagement and Cancer Genome Sequencing (PE-CGS) Network. She is also the co-chair of the Patient Engagement Committee for Komen's Share for Cures. She is a member of the Task Force: *Latino Research Against Cancer the Institute for Health Promotion Research at UT Health San Antonio*.



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A National Perspective on the Impact of Cancer Research, Leadership, and Engagement within the Latino Community



Initial Assessment of the National Cancer Plan

Elizabeth Jaffee, MD

Deputy Director, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University

[Dr. Elizabeth Jaffee](#) is an internationally recognized expert in cancer immunology and pancreatic cancer. She is Deputy Director of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, Co-Director of the Skip Viragh Pancreatic Cancer Center and Associate Director of the Bloomberg Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. Her recent work has focused on developing novel biomarker driven immunotherapy clinical trials to dissect the complex inflammatory signals within the tumor microenvironment. Through collaborations with computational biologists and novel immune targets she developed new approaches for treating patients with pancreatic cancer. She is also developing new vaccines for preventing pancreatic cancer.



Advancing Cancer Health Equity through Research, Training and Community Engagement

Sandra L. San Miguel, DrPH, MS

Program Director, Center for Cancer Health Equity
National Cancer Institute

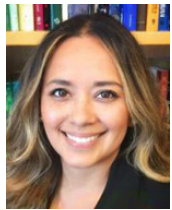
[Dr. Sandra San Miguel](#) has served as a Program Director at the Center for Cancer Health Equity, at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health since 2016. In this role, she leads the U54 Comprehensive Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (CPACHE) program, which includes partnerships across the nation, Guam/Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Dr. San Miguel manages the U01 Connecting Underrepresented Populations to Clinical Trials (CUSP2CT) program. Sandra also manages and lends her scientific expertise to the Patient Engagement and Cancer Genome Sequencing (PE-CGS Network) Administrative Supplements.



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A National Perspective on the Impact of Cancer Research, Leadership, and Engagement within the Latino Community



Achieving Equity Through All of Us: Engaging the Latino Community for Better Health Outcomes

Janeth Sanchez, PhD, MPH

Strategic Leader in Health Services Research | Health Equity Champion | NIH All of Us

[Dr. Janeth Sanchez](#) is the acting director of health equity for the *All of Us* Research Program. In this role, she provides leadership and high-level expertise to improve equity, diversity, inclusion, representation, and accessibility across research and precision medicine initiatives. At *All of Us*, Dr. Sanchez leads transformative efforts aimed at promoting health equity through the development and implementation of the *All of Us* Health Equity Research Agenda. This strategic framework outlines innovative strategies for addressing disparities in health outcomes using All of Us data. She also coordinates scientific and programmatic activities across the Program and NIH to foster a collaborative approach to advance equity in the research enterprise.



Breaking Stereotypes....Community Driven Efforts Improving the Science Base

Adolph Falcon

Executive Vice President, National Alliance for Hispanic Health, Washington, D.C.

[Adolph Falcón](#) is the Executive Vice President of the National Alliance of Hispanic Health. He provides leadership and management for the Alliance's portfolio that delivers front-line health and human services to over 15 million in underserved communities. He serves as Co-PI of *Todos Juntos*, a national effort that is supporting enrollment in the landmark *All of Us* Research Program with community led initiatives that have supported enrollment in *All of Us* of over 90,000 Hispanics, the largest research resource of its kind and leads the Hispanic Health Research Consortium that has funded over 100 researchers utilizing the *All of Us* Researcher Workbench to advance the science of health and well-being in Hispanic communities. A nationally recognized expert on Hispanic health policy, he played a leading role in the landmark Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Act of 1990 and has been active in decades of legislation expanding access to quality health services, improving the science base, and closing equity gaps.



Interpreters



Fabiola Rivera Ramírez

CCHI Certified Medical Interpreter and Translator
San Mateo, CA

[Fabiola Rivera Ramírez](#) is a CCHI Certified Medical Interpreter and Translator. Fabiola holds a certificate in Translation and Interpretation from Evergreen Valley College. Currently, she works as a freelance interpreter and translator in the medicine and education fields serving the Latino community through different districts and community organizations in Santa Clara County. She also volunteers as an interpreter at the RotaCare Clinic in San Jose, CA.



Claudia Schalesky

CCHI Certified Medical Interpreter and Translator
San Mateo, CA

[Claudia Schalesky](#) earned a double Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and German and a Master's Degree in Spanish from San José State University. She also holds a Certificate in Translation and Interpreting from Evergreen Valley College and she is a Certified Medical Interpreter working in the field. She is the Lead Faculty member and Program Coordinator for the Spanish Translation and Interpreting Program at EVC. She has experience teaching Spanish and Spanish Translation and Interpreting courses at the community college level for the past 10 years.



María Esperanza Outeiriño-Feijóo

Spanish Interpreter and Translator, Certified Healthcare Interpreter
San Mateo, CA

[María Esperanza Outeiriño-Feijóo](#) teaches in the Spanish Translation and Interpreting Program at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose. She is a Spanish Certified Healthcare Interpreter and Translator who has collaborated with Stanford Medicine and other healthcare and educational institutions in the Bay area. Teaching and studying different languages is one of her passions along with translation and interpreting. Besides Evergreen Valley College she has also taught Spanish and ESL in other higher education institutions in Portland, OR and in the Bay Area. She is interested in the study of languages as vehicles of communication, and what happens in the communication process when interaction between different languages occurs.



Forum Team



Founder and Executive Director
Ysabel Duron
San Jose, CA

[Ysabel Duron](#) is a pioneering, award-winning Latina journalist, a cancer survivor, and for the last 23 years, a leader in Latino/Hispanic cancer education, advocacy and outreach. In 2017, Ms. Duron founded The Latino Cancer Institute (TLCI), as a force multiplier to amplify the voice and concerns of Latinos nationwide, to spotlight the work of Latino community service agencies, to partner with the global cancer research community, and drive policy that aims to diminish the Latino cancer burden at the federal, state and local level. In February 2023 Ms. Duron was appointed by President Joseph Biden to the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) which advises the Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) on its current 7 billion dollar research budget.

Last year, Ms. Duron joined the National Breast Cancer Roundtable Steering Committee which is in the process of developing new culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies to address risk reduction, equal access to treatment, barriers to clinical trials, and improved survivorship and long-term support.

A California native, Ms. Duron was appointed to the Board of the state's leading edge, tax-payer funded stem cell agency, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). She and other patient advocates have driven a model DEI plan that holds funded researchers accountable for the inclusion of racial/ethnic and other underrepresented communities in their research strategies for both diverse staffing and patient participation.



Program Manager
Miriam Juarez
Salinas, CA

[Miriam Juarez](#) received her Bachelor's Degree in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley. With a clinical background in hematological and solid malignancies, Miriam led cancer screening and prevention activities throughout a federally qualified health system in Monterey County under the California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine (CIAPM). As TLCI Program Manager, Miriam is excited to lend her research and community engagement skills to a number of ongoing projects.

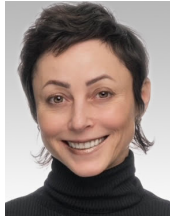


Senior Communications Specialist
Viviana Villafaña
Los Angeles, CA

[Viviana Villafaña](#) is a Content Strategist and Communications Manager with extensive experience in the nonprofit and government sectors. She specializes in digital content production, project management, and strategic communications. Fluent in Spanish, Viviana brings a multicultural perspective to her work and is passionate about enhancing user experiences through innovative tools. Outside of work, she enjoys exploring new technologies and volunteering at community events. Her expertise in SEO and content optimization, combined with her enthusiasm for community involvement, aligns with TLCI's mission to reach diverse communities with critical cancer information and resources.

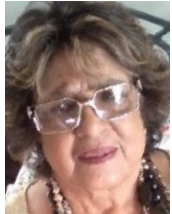


Forum Team



Graphic Designer
Andrea Villafañe
Los Angeles, CA

[Andrea Villafañe](#) is an LA-based graphic designer specializing in branding and identity design in non-profit and private sectors. She is skilled in turning concepts into graphics that tell a compelling story, convey a strategic message, and inspire a call-to-action. For the past six years, Andrea has produced graphics for TLCI's annual forum. She also manages the TLCI's email campaigns. Andrea graduated with a degree in Graphic Design from the Universidad de Palermo in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Administration
Mercy Clark
San Jose, CA

[Mercy Clark](#) is the office administrator for The Latino Cancer Institute. She manages finances and supports community engagement, as well as fundraising and marketing campaigns.



IT/Operations Lead
Martin Thiel
Los Angeles, CA

[Martin Thiel](#) is an award-winning creative producer of various styles of media content, including documentary films and television. Martin wears many hats and is actively working on research and development for a variety of documentary, as well as narrative films and series, and is president/founder of a boutique creative agency Creativxs LLC, an inclusive award-winning collaborative network of creative professionals working in different fields of the media industry. His film work can be seen on PBS, Amazon, iTunes, Kanopy and other streaming platforms. He is passionate about working with non-profits as a project manager as his main goal has always been to help people in any way he can.



Video Editor
Waleska Santiago
Los Angeles, CA / Fortaleza, Brazil

[Waleska Santiago](#) is an award-winning independent filmmaker, director of photography, and photojournalist from Fortaleza, Brazil. With a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the Universidade de Fortaleza and a Master's degree in Media for Social Justice from Woodbury University in California, she possesses a strong academic foundation in her field.



TLCI's Cancer Resources Asset Map

Connecting patients and families to a community of caring

Name
(All)

Agency: <Name>

Contact Information
Email: <Email>
Phone: <Phone>
Website: <Website>
Address: <Address>
City: <City>
Zip code: <Zip Code>
County: <County>
State: <State>
Hours of Operation: <Hours of Operation>

Medical Care
Cancer Type: <Cancer Type>
Spanish Services: <Spanish Services>
Treatment Care: <Treatment Care>
Research Clinical Trials: <Research Clinical Trials>
Navigation: <Navigation>

Survival
Psycho-Social Support: <Psycho-Social Support>
Financial Assistance: <Financial Assistance>
Legal Assistance: <Legal Assistance>
Lodging, Housing: <Lodging, Housing>
Transportation: <Transportation>
Wigs & Prosthesis: <Wigs & Prosthetics>

Prevention & Detection
Education Prevention Advocacy: <Education Prevention Advocacy>
Screening: <Screening>

Additional Information
<SUM(% Latinos in County)>
Notes: <Notes>

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This cancer resource asset map, available in English and Español, can be used not only by patients and families but also by:

1. Community health workers/aka promotores working in agencies, clinics and public health care systems.
2. Community-based organizations.
3. Social workers in clinics and public health care systems.
4. Navigators in comprehensive cancer centers.

Going live on the TLCI website soon!



THE LATINO CANCER INSTITUTE
Connect. Convene. Advocate.



Save the Date

7th Annual National Forum

Friday, October 31, 2025

Thanks to our Sponsors who make possible
the work of The Latino Cancer Institute



Help Support Our Mission

www.latinocancerinstitute.org/support-donate



THE LATINO CANCER INSTITUTE
Connect. Convene. Advocate.



Talking about cancer won't kill us, the silence will!

The Latino Cancer Institute, in collaboration with the *FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence*,
National Hispanic Family Cancer Awareness Week, Sept 20-26th, presents

Virtual Friday Forum Series, Sept 20th - Oct 25th

