



THE LATINO CANCER INSTITUTE
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1st in the virtual Friday Forum Series, Sept 12th - Oct 24th

Addressing an Unanswered Burden - Latino Men's Health & Cancer

September 12, 2025

HEALTH IS WEALTH



Matthew (Mateo) Banegas, PhD

Matthew (Mateo) Banegas is Associate Professor, Director of the Division of Applied Sciences, and Co-Director of the Center for Health Equity Education and Research in the Department of Radiation Medicine and Applied Sciences at the University of California San Diego (UCSD). He is also a member of the Cancer Control Program and serves as Community Outreach and Engagement Liaison at the UCSD Moores Comprehensive Cancer Center. Trained in health services research, Banegas focuses on two key areas: the interaction of social and economic risk factors on health outcomes and creating solutions to improve healthcare delivery and health outcomes. Born and raised in Las Cruces, NM, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from New Mexico State University, and his PhD from the University of Washington in partnership with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. A graduate of the NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program, Banegas brings expertise in cancer economics, health disparities, and health equity—knowledge critical to addressing the financial burden of cancer care on Latino men and their families.



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Matthew R. Cooperberg, PhD, MPH

Matthew R. Cooperberg is Professor of Urology and Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UC San Francisco, where he serves as the Helen Diller Family Chair in Urology, Research Council Chair, and Chief of Urology at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. He co-leads the Prostate Program at UCSF's Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. His clinical expertise spans the early detection, diagnosis, and management of genitourinary malignancies, particularly prostate cancer, with a focus on minimally invasive techniques. His research centers on risk stratification, biomarker development, and comparative effectiveness to better match patients with the right treatments. Cooperberg has authored more than 295 peer-reviewed articles and co-developed the AUA Quality Registry, a national database tracking outcomes for prostate cancer patients across the U.S. His studies of disparities in prostate cancer care and international collaborations on global patterns of disease position him as a leading authority in prostate cancer treatment, access, and equity.

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Edgar Villavicencio, MPH

Edgar A. Villavicencio is Research Development Professional in the Department of Health Promotion Sciences at the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. He also serves as research coordinator for the "Nosotros Comprometidos a Su Salud" lab, where he designs study methodologies, develops manuscripts, and prepares IRB applications for research protocols involving Hispanic/Latino and Native American populations. Villavicencio earned his MPH in Health Behavior Health Promotion from the University of Arizona. His research interests include Latino and Indigenous health, cancer prevention, health equity, and community-based participatory research. With an emphasis on culturally tailored approaches, his work aims to improve health outcomes and strengthen community engagement. His expertise in designing culturally responsive research methods and building community partnerships makes him well-suited to address liver disease prevention and cancer disparities in Latino men.

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David Garcia, PhD, FACSM

David O. Garcia is Associate Professor in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona and Founder/Director of “Nosotros Comprometidos a Su Salud.” A Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, Garcia leads clinical trials aimed at reducing obesity-related health disparities among Mexican-origin adults. He is among the first researchers to develop culturally and gender-sensitive weight loss interventions specifically for Hispanic men. His recent studies investigate metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and its risk factors in the U.S.–Mexico border region, supported by NIH and NIMHD grants. Through Nosotros, Garcia has engaged over 5,000 Mexican-origin participants in obesity and cancer prevention research and provided training to more than 80 Hispanic students new to lifestyle and health research. His expertise in liver disease genetics, metabolism, and culturally tailored interventions makes him uniquely qualified to present on liver disease, genetic predispositions, and cancer risks in Latino men.

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Ana Maria Lopez, MD, MPH, MACP

Ana Maria Lopez is Professor of Medical Oncology and Integrative Medicine and Nutritional Sciences at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, specializing in oncology, telemedicine, and patient-centered care. A graduate of Bryn Mawr College and Jefferson Medical College, Lopez completed residency in Internal Medicine and fellowships in General Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology at the University of Arizona, where she was awarded a Cancer Prevention and Etiology Fellowship from the National Institutes of Health. She earned her MPH from the University of Arizona, receiving the Epidemiology Award for outstanding accomplishments. Lopez served as Associate Dean for Outreach and Multicultural Affairs and founding Medical Director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program. Her research spans from molecular-level health research to systematic health delivery, with recent work focusing on patient-reported outcomes and patient-centered technologies including symptom self-management programs and screening decision-making tools. Lopez's dedication to improving access to care and her expertise in culturally appropriate interventions for underserved communities make her a key voice on food as medicine, lifestyle interventions, and cancer prevention in Latino communities.

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Ray Suarez, MA

Ray Suarez is an award-winning journalist and author with more than four decades of experience in print, radio, and television. He currently hosts PBS's *Wisdom Keepers* and has previously hosted NPR's *Talk of the Nation* and Al Jazeera America's Inside Story. Suarez is the author of three books, including *Latino Americans: The 500-Year Legacy That Shaped a Nation*. He has been honored with multiple awards, including two DuPont-Columbia Silver Batons, the National Council of La Raza's Ruben Salazar Award, and UCLA's Public Policy Leadership Award for his reporting on urban America. As the John J. McCloy Visiting Professor of American Studies at Amherst College, Suarez brings both academic and media expertise to his engagements. Suarez brings personal insight to his reporting on health, faith, immigration, and Latino community issues. His podcast reflects his candid engagement with cancer survivors *The Things I Thought About When My Body Was Trying to Kill Me*. With both professional and personal experience, Suarez is uniquely positioned to facilitate meaningful conversations about cancer in Latino men.

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Marty Gonzalez, MA

Marty Gonzalez is weekend anchor of KRON 4 Morning News Weekend and Associate Professor in the Broadcast and Electronic Communications Arts department at San Francisco State University. Previously, he was East Bay Bureau Chief for KGO-TV and reported for KRON 4 on stories from Central America to the Vatican. His coverage of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake contributed to KGO's Peabody Award. From 1980 to 1987, he hosted and produced *De Colores*, a monthly public affairs show on Latino issues. Gonzalez earned his BA in Mass Communications from California State University, Chico and his MA in Journalism from Ohio State University as a Kiplinger Fellow. Recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists, he combines decades of reporting on Latino communities with personal experience as a prostate cancer survivor. His credibility as a journalist and authenticity as a survivor make him a powerful voice encouraging Latino men to seek early detection and care.

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Tomás Almaguer, PhD

Tomás Almaguer is Professor Emeritus and former Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University. A native of Moorpark, California, he earned his PhD in sociology from UC Berkeley in 1979. He has held faculty positions at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, and the University of Michigan, where he was Director of the Latino Studies Program. A pioneering scholar in Chicana/o Studies, Almaguer is the author of *Racial Fault Lines: The Historical Origins of White Supremacy in California* and co-editor of *The New Latino Studies Reader*. His research explores race, sexuality, and identity in Latino communities, with groundbreaking work on Latino masculinity. A prostate cancer survivor, Almaguer combines personal experience with academic expertise to address cultural factors that influence Latino men's health behaviors. His advocacy emphasizes the importance of early screening, including PSA testing, as a lifesaving tool for Latino men.

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Miriam Juárez-Vargas, BA

Miriam Juárez-Vargas is Program Manager at The Latino Cancer Institute (TLCI), where she leads research initiatives and community engagement projects addressing cancer disparities in Latino communities. She earned her bachelor's degree in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley, and has a clinical background in hematological and solid malignancies. Prior to joining TLCI, she managed cancer screening and prevention activities across a federally qualified health system in Monterey County through the California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine (CIAPM). At TLCI, Juarez directed research efforts that identified more than 300 organizations offering cancer-related support and services, work now informing the Cancer Resources Asset Map—an online, bilingual directory highlighting agencies that provide Spanish-language resources. She also serves as a point of contact for research collaborations with UC Davis' Tu Historia Cuenta Program. Juarez combines her background in clinical care and public health with expertise in research coordination and culturally responsive community engagement.

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2nd in the virtual Friday Forum Series, Sept 12th - Oct 24th



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October 3, 2025

Coming up on the next Friday Forum Series



Keynote:

Luis Arturo Valdez, PhD MPH, Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health



Lisa Goldman Rosas, PhD, MPH, Stanford School of Medicine



Luis Carvajal-Carmona, PhD, UC Davis



Maria Constanza Camargo, PhD, MS, MHA, National Cancer Institute



Enrique Velazquez Villarreal, MD, PhD, MPH, MS, City of Hope



Catherine Metayer, MD PhD, UC Berkeley



Katherine McGlynn, PhD, MPH, National Institutes of Health / National Cancer Institute



Leticia Nogueira, PhD, MPH, American Cancer Society

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