



THE LATINO CANCER INSTITUTE  
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2<sup>nd</sup> in the virtual Friday Forum Series, Sept 12th - Oct 24th

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

October 3, 2025

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## Luis Arturo Valdez, PhD, MPH

Luis Arturo Valdez is Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health and Prevention at Drexel University and Founder of the GANAS Health Initiative. Raised and trained in the US-Mexico borderlands, Valdez earned their PhD in Health Behavior and Health Promotion with a minor in Epidemiology from the University of Arizona. Their research focuses on the intersections of gender, health, and equity, with emphasis on developing interventions for men of color using an intersectional, gender-based framework. Valdez's work explores how masculinity and cultural norms influence Latino men's health behaviors, including alcohol use, chronic stress, and physical activity. Through GANAS Health Initiative, they address critical gaps in community health interventions by integrating Indigenous perspectives and centering community voices in program design. By combining mixed-methods research with culturally grounded approaches, Valdez advances strategies that promote healthy masculinities, reduce disparities, and improve outcomes for Latino men.



## Lisa Goldman Rosas, PhD, MPH

Lisa Goldman Rosas is Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health and the Department of Medicine at Stanford School of Medicine, where she directs the Food for Health Equity Lab. An epidemiologist by training, Goldman Rosas studies disparities in diet-related chronic diseases—such as diabetes, heart disease, depression, and cancer—among under-resourced populations. Her lab works with healthcare systems and community partners to design, implement, and evaluate nutrition programs that promote health equity. She employs both rigorous quantitative methods and participatory qualitative approaches, often engaging patients, caregivers, and community organizations as co-leaders in research. Central to her work is addressing social determinants of health such as food insecurity. Her expertise in nutrition interventions and community-based participatory research makes her a leading voice on obesity management strategies tailored to Latino men, who face higher risks for obesity-related cancers and chronic conditions.



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## Luis Carvajal-Carmona, PhD

Luis Carvajal-Carmona is Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at UC Davis, where he leads research on cancer genetic susceptibility and genomics in diverse populations. He earned his PhD in Genetics from University College London and has built an internationally recognized program investigating how inherited and somatic genetic factors drive cancer development, particularly in gastric, prostate, bladder, liver, and colorectal cancers. Carvajal-Carmona's work focuses on identifying novel cancer-causing genes and mutations, with particular emphasis on underserved communities. His research advances precision medicine by bridging critical gaps in understanding how genetic variation contributes to cancer disparities. Widely recognized for his leadership, he has received numerous awards, including induction into the Cell Press Atlas of Inspiring Hispanic/Latinx Scientists in 2024 and UC Davis's Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research in 2021. His expertise in colorectal cancer genetics and his focus on population diversity make him exceptionally qualified to discuss opportunities for reducing cancer disparities among Latino men.



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## María Constanza Camargo, PhD, MS, MHA

María Constanza Camargo is Earl Stadtman Tenure-Track Investigator in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute. A leading expert in gastric cancer epidemiology, she earned her MS in epidemiology from the School of Public Health in Mexico, MHA from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Colombia, and PhD in public health with a concentration in epidemiology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Since joining NCI in 2010, she has advanced research on *Helicobacter pylori* infection—the primary risk factor for gastric cancer—and its higher prevalence among Latino populations. Camargo’s work addresses one of the most significant cancer disparities affecting Latino men: disproportionately high stomach cancer rates. Her studies integrate cancer causation with translational projects to inform screening, prevention, and treatment strategies. Her expertise positions her as a leading authority on gastric cancer prevention in Latino communities, where infection-related cancers remain a major health challenge.

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## Enrique Velazquez-Villarreal, MD, PhD, MPH, MS

Enrique Velazquez-Villarreal is a physician-scientist and computational geneticist at City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center who is committed to advancing colorectal cancer care for Hispanic and Latino communities. Drawing on his unique background in medicine and genetics, Dr. Velazquez-Villarreal leads research that harnesses cutting-edge tools like artificial intelligence, single-cell genomics, and spatial biology to decode why colorectal cancer is on the rise—and often more deadly—in these populations. His team combines patient data and new technologies to discover what makes cancers in Latinos biologically distinct and to tailor treatment approaches that better address the needs of underserved patients. He serves as Co-Chair of the NIH/NCI Cancer Moonshot's Health Equity Subcommittee and is recognized nationally for his advocacy and research on cancer disparities. Dr. Velazquez-Villarreal's leadership in AI-powered cancer research is creating real progress toward more equitable, personalized care—and his work will spotlight how harnessing Latino data can shape the future of colorectal cancer prevention and treatment.



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## Leticia Nogueira, PhD, MPH

Leticia Nogueira is Scientific Director of Health Services Research at the American Cancer Society, where she investigates determinants of health disparities in the cancer care continuum that can be addressed by policy changes, including structural racism and climate change. She holds a PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Texas at Austin and an MPH in Quantitative Methods from Harvard. Nogueira previously directed the Environmental and Injury Epidemiology and Toxicology Unit at the Texas Department of State Health Services, overseeing five statewide programs in environmental health and injury prevention. As a former Cancer Prevention Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Cancer Institute, she specialized in cancer health disparities. Today, her research explores the impact of climate change and structural racism on cancer care delivery and survivorship. With expertise spanning molecular biology, epidemiology, and health policy, Nogueira brings a comprehensive perspective to understanding how environmental and structural factors uniquely increase cancer risks among Latino men.

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## Catherine Metayer, MD, PhD

Catherine Metayer is Professor of Epidemiology at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health and Director of the Center for Integrative Research on Childhood Leukemia and the Environment (CIRCLE). She earned her medical degree from the University of Bordeaux II in France and her PhD in Epidemiology from Tulane University. A former scientist at the National Cancer Institute, Metayer has become a leading authority on childhood cancer disparities, with a focus on why Latino children experience nearly double the rates of leukemia compared to other groups. Her research spans environmental, genetic, and dietary risk factors, with collaborations in California, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Mexico. As immediate past Chair of the Childhood Cancer and Leukemia International Consortium (CLIC), she has guided international teams studying the complex interplay of genetics, environment, and social determinants. Her expertise makes her uniquely suited to discuss how childhood leukemia affects Latino families and its broader implications for men as fathers, brothers, and caregivers.



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## Katherine A. McGlynn, PhD, MPH

Katherine A. McGlynn is Senior Investigator in the Metabolic Epidemiology Branch at the National Cancer Institute, where she has led pioneering research on cancer epidemiology for over two decades. She earned her MPH in population studies from Tulane University and PhD in epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research explores environmental and genetic risk factors for cancers that disproportionately affect men, including liver and testicular cancers. McGlynn's landmark studies revealed that testicular cancer incidence among Hispanic men has risen to match rates in non-Hispanic white men for the first time, with significant implications for cancer prevention and screening. Her work has directly influenced public health understanding and national policy on cancer disparities. Recognized with both an NIH Merit Award and the NCI Outstanding Mentor Award, McGlynn brings unmatched expertise to the discussion of emerging cancer trends and their impact on Latino men's health outcomes.

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October 24, 2025

# Coming up on the next Friday Forum Series



Cristian Gutierrez  
Huerta, 6th-year Medical  
Student, National  
President LMSA



Elena Rios, MD, MSPH,  
MACP  
National Hispanic Health  
Foundation



Eric Small, MD  
University of California,  
San Francisco



Francisco Cartujano-Barrera, MD  
University of Rochester



Javier Rosario, LCSW,  
QS, OSW-C  
The Leukemia &  
Lymphoma Society



Ysabel Duron  
TLCI Executive Director

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