

UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine



UCLA MHO Quarterly Newsletter

MINORITY HOUSESTAFF ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Family,

Welcome to UCLA's newly-minted Minority Housestaff Organization! We are thrilled to start this academic year with you and excited for our evolution over this next year.

We hope you enjoy our first quarterly newsletter, meant to celebrate our collective brilliance, beauty and joy. Especially for those who may be onlys in their divisions or departments, our intention is to provide a safe space and launch point for community-building as you start/continue your journey at UCLA.

We welcome any creative ideas about how to improve this newsletter and can't wait to watch this family grow. Sign up to be an MHO member at ___ - spread the word!

Til next time,

Jennifer Bailey, Manal Khan, Erica Manriquez and Precious Fortes
(Community and Professional Development Committee)

PS If you are willing to share any personal or professional achievements, please email EManriquez@mednet.ucla.edu so we can include you in next quarter's newsletter. No milestone is too small!

FLAVORS OF THE WEEK

Jackfruit Cafe

Located in Sawtelle, @jackfruitcafe is THE place for vegan soul food and is Black-owned to boot. Try the jackfruit soul bowl! (Jennifer)

Simpang Asia

On the corner of National and Rose, @simpangasia packs a punch of flavor with Halal Indonesian cuisine. If you're looking for some spice wrapped in a banana leaf, this is the spot! (Lovelee)

Badmaash

@badmaashla is a "hip" Indian restaurant in Fairfax that marries eastern flavors and western sensibilities (without diluting the *desi-ness*). Try the onion fritters, butter chicken samosa, chicken tikka, badmaash fried chicken or chili cheese naan. Wash it down with the oat milk chai! (Manal)

Our Founders



Michael O. Mensah, MD MPH

Michael O. Mensah, MD MPH is from Scranton PA, where he was born to Ghanaian immigrant parents. He attended Princeton University, majoring in Philosophy and African American Studies. He worked at a halfway house before attending UCSF medical school as a PRIME student. He took a year off to attend Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health as a Zuckerman Fellow before finishing medical school to train in Psychiatry at UCLA, where he served as Chief Resident. During residency, he was elected to the American Psychiatric Association Board of Trustees as the only voting trainee member. His research and writing has been featured in the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA Internal Medicine, Scientific American, and the Journal of General Internal Medicine. He is now a National Clinician Scholar at Yale University, and currently serves as co-editor of Psychiatric Service's race and mental health column.



Lovelee Brown, MD

Lovelee Brown, MD is a California native who grew up in a first generation, multi-ethnic home that instilled in her the importance of serving others. After a brief adventure on the East Coast for medical school, Lovelee returned to California where she completed her Internal Medicine residency at UCLA, stayed on as Chief Resident and developed the inaugural role of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Chief Resident for the department of Medicine. With her department's support, Lovelee synergized with other programs to found and financially ground UCLA's Minority Housestaff Organization. As a founder she hopes the organization will work to promote the advancement of minority physicians and the communities who produced them.

Meet the board

Co-Presidents



Dr. Cecilia Canales
Anesthesia
PGY 4



Dr. Daniel Okobi
Neurology
PGY 5

Community and Professional Development Committee



Dr. Jennifer Bailey
Pediatrics
PGY 2



Dr. Manal Khan
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
PGY 6



Dr. Erica Manriquez
Gynecologic Oncology
PGY 7

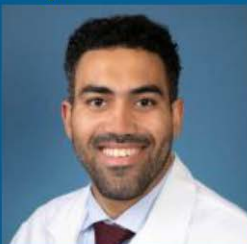


Dr. Precious Fortes (Historian)
Pathology
PGY 2

Community Investment and Recruitment Committee



Dr. Efe Chantal Ghanney Simons
Urology
PGY 5



Dr. Chase Richard
Emergency Medicine
PGY 3



Dr. Brittany Tarrant
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
PGY 5



Dr. Adrianna Stanley (Historian)
Medicine-Pediatrics
PGY 3

Health System Equity Committee



Dr. Lawrence Benjamin
Pulmonary and Critical Care
PGY 5



Dr. Freddy Ferguson,
Family Medicine
PGY 2



Dr. Amanda Labora General
Surgery
PGY 3



Dr. Reza Hessabi (Historian)
Emergency Medicine
PGY 2

Our Support People (the real MVPs)



Dr. Christina Harris



Mel Bonilla



Yemi Shoroye

In the News

PEOPLE.COM > HUMAN INTEREST

Man Honors His Farmworker Parents in Special Way After Graduating Medical School: 'Victory Lap'

After earning his M.D., Erick Juárez returned to the farm where his parents, Loreto and Maricela, have worked since immigrating to the U.S. from Mexico

By **Joelle Goldstein** July 14, 2021 04:31 PM



Erick Juárez with his parents, Loreto and Maricela | CREDIT: ERICK JUAREZ/INSTAGRAM

Check out Neurology intern Erick Juárez's feature in People Magazine about honoring his family through his work.

<https://people.com/human-interest/man-honors-farmworker-parents-in-special-way-after-graduating-medical-school/>



Emergency Medicine R2 Reza Hessabi's reflections on the last year are highlighted in August's UCLA Health newsletter.

<https://dartmed.dartmouth.edu/2021/08/06/a-year-like-no-other/>

A year like no other

Dartmouth Medicine

"Prior to starting medical school, I made sure I had access to mental health resources, and I'm lucky to be in a program where residents have access to those resources," said Reza Hessabi, second-year resident in the UCLA-Ronald Reagan/Olive View Emergency Medicine Residency Program.

[Read the story](#)



Find our two founders in U Magazine's article on rebuilding UCLA Health.

<https://www.uclahealth.org/u-magazine/brick-by-brick>

¡FELICIDADES!

Huntington's Disease Society of America
VIRTUAL 36TH ANNUAL
HDSA CONVENTION
JUNE 10-13, 2021 | [HDSA.ORG/CONVENTION](https://www.hdsa.org/convention)

Acompáñanos el viernes, 11 de junio del 2021 a las 11AM/10AM/8AM (Este/Centro/Pacífico). Estaremos presentando la primera sesión completamente en español en la Conferencia Anual de La Asociación Americana de la Enfermedad de Huntington.

La sesión "Comprender los conceptos básicos de HD" estará presentada por la doctora Adys Mendizabal.



Dr. Adys Mendizabal (Neurology Movement Disorders Fellow PGY6) was awarded a prestigious Huntington Disease Society of America's (HDSA) Berman-Topper Family HD Career Development Fellowship. She also gave a patient-facing talk in Spanish at the annual HDSA convention. Gracias doctora!

Dr. Ceci Canales (Anesthesia PGY4) was recently awarded an NIH/NIA Butler-Williams Scholars Program for her research in Post Operative Cognitive Dysfunction.

Dr. Daniel Okobi (Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry Fellow PGY5) was recently awarded an Association for Frontotemporal Dementia Postdoctoral Fellowship!

Dr. Efe Chantal Ghanney Simons (Urology PGY5) has cleaned up this year! She was awarded multiple honors including the 2021 Outstanding Resident Award for the Society of Women in Urology and the Life Sciences Editors Foundation JEDI Award 2021. She was also awarded a Josiah Macy Jr Foundation President's Grant and a Society of Academic Urologists grant for her pipeline work in Urology.

Dr. Reza Hessabi (Emergency Medicine PGY2) recently proposed at Pasadena City Hall to his girlfriend now fiancée Huang!



Dr. Manal Khan (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow PGY5) will be the inaugural EDI chief for the department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. She also recently welcomed her second son - baby Sulayman, meaning "man of peace," born August 6 at UCLA Health!

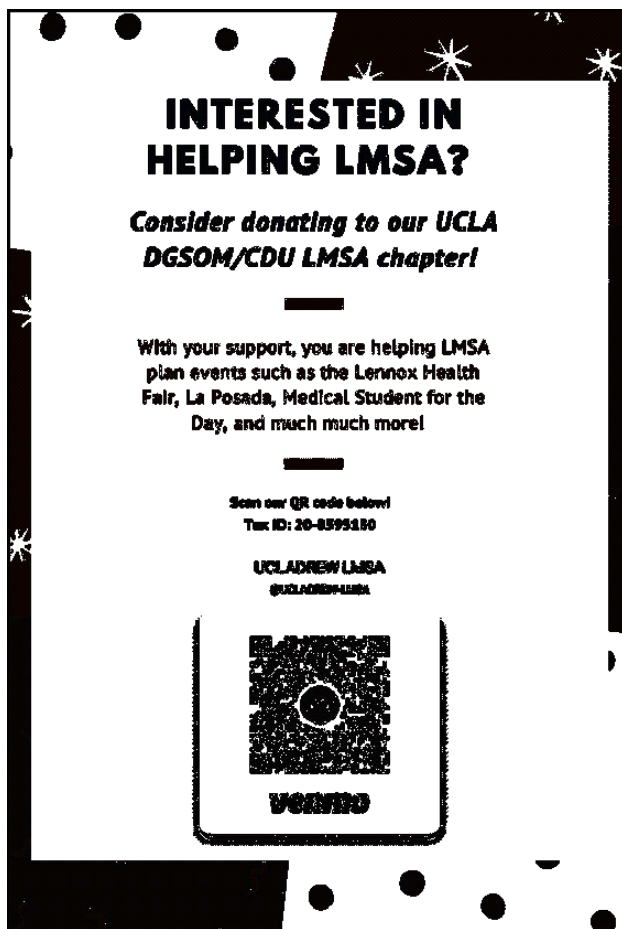
And keep an eye out for these newly-minted UIM chief residents!

- Jose Alonso, OHNS
- Mark Attiah, Neurosurgery
- Felicia Boakye-Dankwah, VA-Psychiatry
- Ignacio Calles, Emergency Medicine
- Karina España, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Scott Galey, Orthopedic Surgery
- Chad Ishmael, Orthopedic Surgery
- Dan Johansen, Orthopedic Surgery
- Joe Pantoja, Vascular Surgery
- Wes Phillips, Neurosurgery
- Jordan Rivera, VA-Psychiatry
- Fatima Traore, Neurology
- Jamar Uzzell, Pathology and Lab Medicine
- Luca Valle, Radiation Oncology

Mentorship Corner

Professional societies

- NMA @nationalmedassn
<https://www.nmanet.org/>
- NHMA @nhmamd @nhma_cor
<https://www.nhmamd.org/>
- AAIP @aaipdocs
<https://www.aaip.org/>
- Society of Black Academic Surgeons @societyofbas
<https://www.sbas.net/>
- Latino Surgical Society @latinosurgery
<https://www.latinosurgicalsociety.org/>



Interested in connecting with other LMSA students and alumni?

Join the newly created "LA-tinos" groupme!
https://groupme.com/join_group/69494760/q3yMQzJu



**Bonus: check out Dr. Kemi Doll's podcast "Your Unapologetic Career"! Designed for women of color pursuing academic careers but with pearls of wisdom we ALL need in our life.*

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/your-unapologetic-career-podcast/id1565219435>

Be a mentor, support our medical students and their work!

LMSA @lmsa.uclacdu
SNMA @snma_ucladrew

Upcoming Events

UCLA GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
AND DGSOM OFFICE OF EQUITY &
DIVERSITY INCLUSION PRESENT

ROAD TO RESIDENCY 2021

Join us for our 3rd Annual Conference for underrepresented medical students on the residency match process. This year's conference will be a hybrid of virtual and in person events.

Saturday, September 11, 2021

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR LISTSERV AND RECEIVE REGISTRATION UPDATES](#)

Hear from residency program directors, faculty and underrepresented residents in your field of interest, participate in workshops and do a mock interview.

For questions e-mail: DGSOMEDI@mednet.ucla.edu

<https://medschool.ucla.edu/equity-diversity-inclusion-events-road-to-residency>

UCLA's 3rd Annual Road to Residency (hybrid)

PLEASE JOIN THE
UCLA MINORITY HOUSESTAFF
ORGANIZATION FOR OUR

INAUGURAL WELCOME RECEPTION

As we celebrate our founding and establish our goals for this year

LUSKIN CONFERENCE CENTER
COURTYARD SOUTH
5 PM - 8 PM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST
DRINKS & APPETIZERS PROVIDED

RSVP HERE BY MONDAY, AUGUST 30TH



UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

MHO Welcome Reception (in-person)

Hot off the press

Khan M, Madaan V. New Ways to Support the Recruitment of International Medical Graduates During the Pandemic. *Academic Medicine*. 2021 May 1;96(5):616.

https://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Fulltext/2021/05000/New_Ways_to_Support_the_Recruitment_of.6.aspx

Ghanney Simons E, Thavaseelan S, Saigal C, Downs T. Diversifying Graduate Medical Education and the Urology Workforce: Re-imaging our Structures, Policies, Practices, Norms and Values. *Urology*. 27 June 2021.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0090429521005549?dgcid=coauthor>

Rafla-Yuan E, Chhabra D, **Mensah M.** Decoupling Crisis Response from Policing - A Step Toward Equitable Psychiatric Emergency Services. *NEJM*. 6 May 2021. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMms2035710>

Cannon S, Seideman C, Thavaseelan S, Wilson S, Zaila K, Delgado J, **Ghanney Simons E, Dy G.** Urologists for Equity: A Collective Approach Towards Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Urology. *Urology*. 2021 Jul 29.

[https://www.goldjournal.net/article/S0090-4295\(21\)00706-8/fulltext](https://www.goldjournal.net/article/S0090-4295(21)00706-8/fulltext).

Ghanney Simons E. Black Women in Urology. *AUA News*. April 2021.

<https://epub.auanet.org/publication/?i=702382&ver=html5&p=5>.

https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2105270?query=TOC&cid=NEJM%20eToc,%20August%205,%202021%20B%20DM194636_NEJM_Non_Subscriber&bid=573112794
(not UCLA people)



Ceci Canales (anesthesia), Samru Abraha (anesthesia), Lydi Martinez (anesthesia) and Adys Mendizabal (neurology) hit Taco El Ruso in Silverlake after a Dodgers game.



Our sharp-looking peds wards team running the show at Miller Children's - Ozzy Obiwuru, Kaitlin Hall (recent grad), Esi Braimah and Jennifer Bailey.

Salsa night with Shirin Poustchi (internal medicine), Ignacio Calles (emergency medicine), Adys Mendizabal (neurology) and David (geriatrics fellow).



Brunch crew! Daniel Okobi (neurology), Adys Mendizabal (neurology), Houda Becckine (internal medicine), Mike Mensah (recent psychiatry grad), Salam Beah (recent internal medicine grad) and Margaret Mongare (recent internal medicine grad).