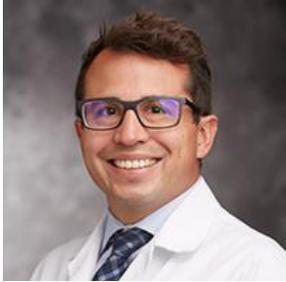




Participating Mentors
Annual Medical
Student Research Colloquium
Current Research in Health Disparities

Medical Student Research Thesis Program
Charles R. Drew University
Of Medicine and Science

Friday, February 26, 2021



Rafael A. Buerba, MD/MHS

Orthopedic Surgery

Dr. Buerba is a Banner Health Orthopaedic Sports Medicine and Shoulder Surgeon. He practices in the West Valley of Phoenix. He recently completed his Sports Surgery Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. While there, he worked as a team physician for the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Pittsburgh Penguins and the athletic teams of the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, and Robert Morris University. In addition to his sports surgery training, he completed a 5-year Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at UCLA. While in medical school, he also obtained a Masters in Health Science (MHS) degree in addition to his MD at the Yale University School of Medicine in 2014. He studied Biological Anthropology at Harvard University (cum laude, 2008) and played D1 soccer in college x 2 years and co-founded the Harvard Club Soccer Team. Dr. Buerba is a well published author in Orthopaedics and has 30+ peer reviewed manuscripts and textbook chapters and 50+ academic presentations at the national level. He also enjoys mentoring medical students and orthopaedic residents and is the social media manager of the newly formed American Association of Latino Orthopaedic Surgeons (AALOS)



Peregrina L. Arciaga, MD

Anesthesiologist

Peregrina L. Arciaga, Associate Professor III, Career Academic Series, Department of Anesthesiology UCLA. Dr. Arciaga received her MD degree in 1984 at Santo Tomas University, Philippines. Dr. Arciaga completed her Anesthesiology Residency Training here at Charles Drew University/Martin Luther King Hospital in 2002. She became Board Certified in 2004. She holds professional memberships in the American Society of Anesthesiologist, California Society of Anesthesiologist, Society for Education in Anesthesia and Society for Simulation in Healthcare. Dr. Arciaga has been affiliated with the Department of Anesthesiology in King Drew Medical Center, Martin Luther King Ambulatory Surgical Center, Martin Luther King Community Hospital, and Kaiser Permanente Hospital Harbor City for 15 years and currently serves as Director of Simulation Center, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.



Jalayne Arias, JD, MA

Legal & Ethical Researcher

Jalayne J. Arias, JD, MA is an Assistant Professor at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) in the Memory and Aging Center, Department of Neurology. She is a multidisciplinary researcher and scholar leading studies in legal and ethical challenges in Alzheimer's disease, neurodegenerative illnesses, and aging. Her research has identified employment and insurance discrimination based on a risk for Alzheimer's disease, evaluated genetic data sharing guidelines, examined challenges to financing long-term care, and characterized financial and legal decision-making in young-onset dementias. Her current research portfolio includes an NIH-NIA K01 award to develop employment and insurance anti-discrimination protections for individuals at risk of Alzheimer's disease and an NIH Supplement Award to evaluate private payer coverage policies for genetic testing in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Additionally, Professor Arias has obtained foundation grants to evaluate sentencing decisions for individuals with dementia (ARCH Network/Pepper Center) and develop guidelines for genomic data management and sharing specific to Frontotemporal dementia research (Marcus Family Foundation).



Elizabeth Barnert, MD, MPH, MS
Pediatrics

Elizabeth Barnert, MD, MPH, MS is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She provides pediatric care to youth in the juvenile justice system. Dr. Barnert serves as an advisor to the California state legislature and to US Congress on juvenile justice policy. Dr. Barnert is passionate about improving health outcomes of vulnerable youth. Her research focuses on youth involved in the juvenile justice system, commercially sexually exploited youth, and youth undergoing family separation and reunification. Funded through an NIH-funded Career Development Award, Dr. Barnert is partnering with Los Angeles County to develop and test an intervention to link young people to mental health and substance use treatment services after incarceration. She also serves as an advisor to the California state legislature and to US Congress on juvenile justice policy.



Eraka Bath, MD

Psychiatry

Eraka Bath, M.D., is an Associate Professor in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Vice Chair for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute in the David Geffen School of Medicine. Dr. Bath has a long-standing interest in health care disparities, minority and community mental health, with particular interest in the underserved populations of foster care and juvenile justice involved youth. Dr. Bath specializes in diagnostic assessment and forensic consultation with adolescents, with an emphasis on high-risk youth, including those with histories of trauma, child welfare and juvenile justice involvement. Dr. Bath's portfolio of research has included funding from the National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Drug Abuse, PCORI, and LA County Dept. of Probation. Research activities include family-based interventions for judicially involved youth and adapting emerging technologies to increase engagement in court-referred mental health and substance use treatment for youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation.



Mohsen Bazargan, PhD
Medical Sociology

Dr. Mohsen Bazargan is Professor, Faculty Trustee, and Director of Research in the Department of Family Medicine at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science (CDU). In addition, he is also Adjunct Professor at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine. He is a Medical Sociologist with extensive training in the fields of aging, research methodology, evaluation, and statistics. He received his PhD in Medical Sociology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He has been a member of the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) faculty since 1993, and was previously on the faculty of the Xavier University. Dr. Bazargan entire research related activities is concentrated around the health status and health disparities experienced by racial/ethnic minorities and socio-economically disadvantaged populations. He has conducted several large population and community based surveys on access and utilization of health services by underserved minority older adults. Dr. Bazargan has authored more than 150 scientific papers many of which address access to care, barriers to medical care, use of health services, racial disparities, and health outcomes among older adult African Americans. Minority populations.



Shahrzad Bazargan-Hejazi, PhD
Medical Sociology

Shahrzad Bazargan-Hejazi PhD is the Professor of Medical Sociology in the Department of Psychiatry, the Research Director in the Psychiatry Residency Training, and has been the Chair of Medical Student Research Thesis Program, in the College of Medicine at CDU since 2006. She is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She is a member of the Global Burden of Disease collaborator network, participating in the production, analysis, improvement, and presentation of the Global Burden of Disease. Dr. Bazargan has led and collaborated in several emergency-department and community-based studies related to the social aspects of disease and illness as they relate to misuse of alcohol, mental disorders, injury, and violence. In addition, she is interested in investigating the intersection of mindfulness, emotional literacy, and social capital, and the ways in which these practices and concepts build resiliency and promote well-being. Dr. Bazargan is a prolific writer and is on the editorial board of several journals, including *Medicine*; *BioMed Research International*; and *Journal of Injury and Violence Research*.



Peyman Benharash, MD

Surgery

Dr. Peyman Benharash specializes in the treatment of acquired cardiac diseases in adults. He is the director of the Extracorporeal Life Support (ECMO) Program at UCLA and has made great strides in making this technology available widely throughout Southern California. He earned his undergraduate, graduate, and medical degrees from UCLA. He completed general surgery training at UCLA and spent time at Stanford University performing leading-edge research in stem cell therapies for cardiovascular applications. Dr. Benharash returned to UCLA to complete specialized training in cardiothoracic surgery and has remained on the faculty. He is the principal investigator on two major grants funded by the United States Department of Defense and is a co-investigator on several interdisciplinary projects for discovery in heart disease. Dr. Benharash has received a teaching award every year that he has served on the faculty at UCLA and was recently honored by the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA with the Kaiser-Permanente Award for Excellence in Education. His work has been widely published and he is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Society of University Surgeons and Society of Thoracic Surgeons. He is currently serving as the President of the California Society of Thoracic Surgeons.



Arleen F. Brown, MD, PhD
Professor of Medicine

Dr. Brown's research focuses on improving health outcomes, enhancing health care quality, and reducing disparities for adults with chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and stroke. She has been PI or Co-PI on studies to improve diabetes care for older adults and minority patients and research to understand clinical, socioeconomic, and health system influences on chronic disease management in under-resourced communities. She is currently a Principal Investigator on several projects, including a study to improve cardiovascular outcomes among persons with a history of trauma who are living with HIV and AIDS, research to reduce disparities in blood pressure control for patients in the Los Angeles County safety net system. She also leads a statewide collaborative to mitigate disparities in COVID-19—the Share, Trust, Organize, Partner: the COVID-19 California Alliance (STOP COVID-19 CA)—which includes 11 universities and their networks of over 70 community partners. Dr. Brown also co-directs the Community Engagement and Research Program (CERP) of the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute.



Kara L. Calkins, MD

*Pediatrics, Neonatal-Perinatal
Medicine*

Dr. Kara Calkins has been a UCLA faculty member since 2009. She provides critical care to infants at the neonatal intensive care units at Mattel Children's Hospital and UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center. Dr. Calkins earned her bachelor's degree at the University of California Davis and her medical degree at the University of California Irvine. She completed her pediatric residency at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and her fellowship training in Neonatal Medicine at the University of California Los Angeles. Dr. Calkins also completed a Master's of Science in Clinical Research as part of the Specialty Training and Advanced Research and Fellowship in Clinical Pharmacology at the University of California Los Angeles.

Dr. Calkins' research interest includes biomarker science and prediction modeling, neonatal nutrition, growth, and body composition, intestinal failure associated liver disease, and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. Dr. Calkins has received funding from the National Institutes of Health and Gerber Foundation. She has authored peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and received awards from various organizations.



Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD
Ophthalmology

Dr. Coleman is the Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, director of the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic and professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, where she researches the public health impact, risk factors, causes and treatments of blindness worldwide. Dr. Coleman previously served as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, council chair for the American Ophthalmological Society, chair of the American Glaucoma Society Annual Program Meeting Committee, president of Women in Ophthalmology, Chair of the National Eye Institute Eye Health and Education Program Planning Committee. She is currently Associate Editor of the American Journal of Ophthalmology. As director of the Stein Eye Institute's Center for Community Outreach and Policy, she provides care to the underserved and vulnerable who lack access to health care because of finances, transportation issues or language barriers; a program that has screen 90,000 children over the last five years.



Katya Corado, MD

Internal Medicine

Dr. Corado joined the Division of HIV Medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in 2012. She is a graduate of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She completed her internal medicine residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and her infectious diseases Fellowship at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Dr. Corado provides primary medical care to HIV patients at the Tom Kay Clinic in the Long Beach Comprehensive Health Center, affiliated with Harbor-UCLA. Dr. Corado also teaches and participates in research at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Her research includes clinical trials focusing on adherence to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in HIV, and methods to optimize longitudinal follow-up while in HIV care.



Christine Dauphine, MD, FACS
Surgery

Dr. Christine Dauphine is a breast surgeon at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. She is an Associate Professor of Surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She is also the Vice Chair of Education in the Department of Surgery at Harbor-UCLA. She received her medical degree from the UCLA School of Medicine and then completed her General Surgery Residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in 2006. Her clinical research interests are in breast cancer, health care disparities specific to cancer, and improving surgical education.



Christian De Virgilio, MD
Surgery

Dr. De Virgilio is originally from Argentina, and moved to the U.S. as a child. He attended Loyola Marymount University as an undergraduate, medical school at UCLA, general surgery residency at Harbor-UCLA, and vascular surgery fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. He is currently Chair of the Department of Surgery at Harbor-UCLA, and Co-Chair of the College of Applied Anatomy at the UCLA School of Medicine. He particularly enjoys teaching and mentoring medical students and residents.



Yvonne Flores, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Chronic Diseases

Yvonne Flores, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management and a research scientist at the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control Research. She is also a member of the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity and the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. Additionally, Dr. Flores is an investigator at the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), where she has led numerous bi-national projects since 2000. Her research includes studies on breast, cervix, and liver cancer, with a focus on risk factors, knowledge and prevention practices, as well as the improvement of screening programs. Other work has focused on hepatitis C screening in Mexico, obesity-related diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and liver disease, as well as the use of HPV screening and vaccination to prevent cervical cancer.

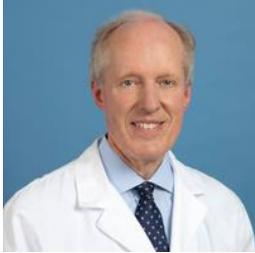


Cheryl H. Hoffman, MD

*Diagnostic and Interventional
Radiology*

Dr. Cheryl Hoffman is a UCLA clinical professor in vascular and interventional radiology and medical director of the UCLA Manhattan Beach Imaging and Interventional Center. She is board certified in diagnostic and interventional radiology as well as venous and lymphatic medicine. She has been voted Super Doctor in Los Angeles for numerous years in a row and is known nationally as an expert in fibroid care, vein disease, and treatment of vertebral body bone fractures. She completed an internship in general surgery, residency in radiology, and fellowships in MRI at the University of California, Irvine, and cardiovascular and interventional radiology at Stanford University.

As a passionate teacher and speaker, she educates fellows and residents in interventional radiology and is frequently seen sharing her knowledge in community forums, Facebook Live webinars, and YouTube videos. Besides using minimally invasive novel procedures to treat medical conditions, she is also passionate about incorporating plant-based nutrition into her practice to optimize patient health and recently became board certified in lifestyle medicine.



Gary N. Holland, MD

Ophthalmology

Gary N. Holland, MD is the Jack H. Skirball Professor of Ocular Inflammatory Diseases, and Chief of the Cornea-External Ocular Disease & Uveitis Division of the Department of Ophthalmology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and is a member of the Jules Stein Eye Institute. He is first recipient of the David May II Professorship of Ophthalmology (2002), which honors one of the founding members of the Institute's Board of Trustees and a prominent member of the Los Angeles community. He is also Director of the Ocular Inflammatory Disease Center, Jules Stein Eye Institute, and Director of the Institute's Clinical Research Center, which was created to provide support services for individuals engaged in patient-based research. Dr. Holland grew up in southern California where he undertook much of his training. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences at the University of California, Irvine (1975) and his medical degree at the UCLA School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency training in ophthalmology. He undertook fellowship training in both uveitis/external ocular diseases (Francis I. Proctor Foundation, University of California, San Francisco, 1983-1984) and corneal diseases and surgery (Emory University, 1984-1985). He returned to the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology as a faculty member in 1985.



Andrea Jackson, MDMAS
Obstetrician and gynecologist

Dr. Jackson is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics, and interim Chief of the Generalist Division in the Department of Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine. Her clinical and research focus is on dismantling of racial/ethnic disparities in reproductive health through diversifying the healthcare workforce and education of medical students, residents and practicing physicians on how systemic racism contributes to healthcare inequality. She is Director of the UCSF Initiative for Black Women's Health and Livelihood and co-Director of EMBRACE, an innovative group prenatal care program for Black Families at UCSF.

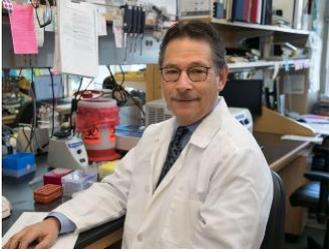
Dr. Jackson earned her B.S. in Engineering at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., and received a medical degree from Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. She completed her residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, followed by a fellowship in Family Planning at UCSF. She also earned her Master's in clinical research at UCSF.



Dennis Y. Kim MD, FACS

Surgery

Dr. Dennis Y. Kim MD, FACS is a fellowship-trained trauma surgeon specializing in Surgical Critical Care at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He is the Medical Director of the Surgical ICU and the Program Director of the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at Harbor-UCLA, with roles as an Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery and the Vice Chair of the College of Applied Anatomy at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. His academic interests include Trauma & acute care surgery outcomes (TBI, intra-abdominal sepsis, organ failure), and surgical education. He is the distinguished recipient of the Kaiser Permanente Award for Excellence in Education, the Collins Day Outstanding Residents Teaching Award, the Young Surgeons Travel Award from the Southern California Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, and the Surgical Education Research Fellowship from the Association for Surgical Education. In his free time, Dr. Kim enjoys spending time with family, coaching youth soccer, camping, and reading.



Donald B. Kohn, MD

Microbiology, Immunology

Donald B. Kohn, M.D., studies the biology of blood stem cells, which are located in the bone marrow and have two important properties: they can duplicate themselves and they can create all types of blood cells. Over the course of 30 years of research, Kohn has developed new clinical methods to treat genetic blood diseases using blood stem cells that have been modified to remove genetic mutations. Kohn's blood stem cell gene therapy method collects some of a patient's own blood stem cells and either adds a good copy of the defective gene or fixes the broken genes to eliminate disease-causing mutations. The patient then receives a transplant of their own corrected stem cells, which will ideally create an ongoing supply of healthy blood cells. Importantly, this method eliminates the risk of rejection associated with receiving a bone marrow transplant from a different person, meaning the patient doesn't have to take a lifelong supply of anti-rejection drugs. Kohn began working on gene therapy as a fellow at the National Institutes of Health in 1985 and then began practicing as a pediatric bone marrow transplant physician at Children's Hospital Los Angeles in 1987. While practicing at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, he started his own lab focused on stem cell research and has continued this work, advancing new therapies



Tony Kuo, MD, M.S.H.S
Epidemiology

Tony Kuo, M.D., M.S.H.S. directs the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention in the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. He also serves as the Director of the Office of Senior Health for the County of Los Angeles. Dr. Kuo has more than 15 years of clinical practice experience in continuity, urgent/emergency and homeless shelter care. His professional interests span the continuum of medicine and public health. They include undergraduate and graduate medical education; nutrition and physical activity promotion; cardiovascular health promotion; diabetes prevention; patient-centered care; and social programs that affect health.

Dr. Kuo received his Medical Degree from the University Of Utah School Of Medicine and his Master's in Health Services from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Fielding School of Public Health. He is boarded in Family Medicine and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He has joint appointments in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.



Amar U. Kishan, MD

Radiation Oncology

Dr. Amar U. Kishan, Assistant Professor, is the Vice-Chair of Clinical and Translational Research and Chief of the Genitourinary Oncology Service for the Department of Radiation Oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Kishan graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Molecular and Cell Biology and Public Health. He earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, where he graduated magna cum laude from the joint Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology Program. During medical school, he was awarded a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellowship to study tumor metabolism in the laboratory. He subsequently completed his internship training at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, where he was recognized as the H.H. Jones Intern of the Year. He then completed his residency training in radiation oncology at UCLA. Dr. Kishan specializes in the utilization of radiation to treat genitourinary malignancies (particularly cancers of the prostate and bladder), as well as malignancies of the head and neck.



Dr. Leonard S. Marks
Urology

Professor and deKernion Endowed Chair in Urology, Dr. Marks received his medical degree from the University of Texas, graduating with AOA honors and a Masters of Arts in Physiology in 1969. He was named a Fellow and Post-Doctoral Research Scholar at UCLA School of medicine and completed his residency at UCLA. Dr. Marks's current research focuses on improving prostate cancer diagnostic measures and outcomes; exploring and assessing efficacy of active surveillance and various focal therapy treatments, including cryoablation, HIFU, and FLA for primarily low- to intermediate-risk prostate cancer. He is an authority in targeted MRI fusion prostate biopsy and has authored more than 120 peer-reviewed scientific publications on prostate research.



Anna Morgan, MD, MSc, MSHP
Internal Medicine

Anna U. Morgan, MD, MSc, MSHP is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University Of Pennsylvania Perelman School Of Medicine, and is the Director of Care Management and Community Health for the Division of General Internal Medicine. Her work focuses on caring for complex and vulnerable patients in primary care and she experienced in community-based interventions to address the social determinants of health. Dr. Morgan has published in journals such as Health Affairs, Journal of the American Medical Association, American Journal of Public Health and the Journal of General Internal Medicine. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College and the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine and also completed an MSc in Health, Population and Society from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Master of Science in Health Policy Research from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed residency and chief residency in Internal Medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles and was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania.



Shehla Pervin, PhD

Internal Medicine

Dr. Shehla Pervin's main focus of research is to identify key cell types involved in promoting initiation of human breast tumors and to understand the molecular mechanisms involved during the process. Her research utilizes primary cells obtained from both triple negative and estrogen receptor positive human breast tumors to generate xenografts in nude mice. Her research group seeks to understand the role of key signaling pathways in mammary cancer stem cells and other stromal cells that contribute to tumor initiation and progression. The other interest of her laboratory is to understand mechanisms and cell types that are sensitive to estrogen and promote estrogen-induced human breast tumors. These studies are geared to identify novel targets that could be targeted for early detection and treatment of breast tumors.



Annette Regan, MD

Epidemiology

Dr. Annette Regan is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Epidemiology, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and an Assistant Professor at the University of San Francisco. Her research is dedicated to epidemiological investigations which aim to inform global policy for improving maternal and child health. She completed her epidemiology training at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health (MPH, 2006) and infectious disease epidemiology training at the School of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at University of Western Australia (PhD, 2016). As part of her doctoral work, she established one of the largest population-based cohorts to investigate the safety of influenza vaccination in pregnancy and Australia's first rapid surveillance system for monitoring the safety of vaccines given during pregnancy. She has previously worked for federal and state government public health agencies. These roles include: Vaccine Epidemiologist for the Department of Health Western Australia (2013-16) and Epidemiologist for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2007-11). She has served federal and state government agencies during public health emergencies, including the 2009 influenza A/H1N1 pandemic and the 2014 Ebola outbreak.



Roberto B Vargas, MD, MPH
Internal Medicine

Roberto Vargas, MD, MPH is Assistant Dean for Health Policy and Inter-Professional Education within the College of Medicine and Director of the Health Policy Pillar of the Urban Health Institute at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU). Dr. Vargas is leading University-wide efforts in health policy analysis and health services research. He supports efforts in action and advocacy consistent with the CDU Advantage and mission of promoting health equity and social justice. Research expertise includes descriptive and comparative analyses of health care interventions to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities in care as well as community engagement in partnered research efforts.



Wesley Yin, PhD
Economist

Wesley “Wes” Yin is an Associate Professor of Economics at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, and the Anderson School of Management. He is also a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a Faculty Affiliate at the Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT. He is currently serving as Vice Chair of the Department of Public Policy. Yin’s research focuses on health care, consumer finance and protections, and economic inequality.

His recent work analyzes the prevalence of medical debt and its impact on disparities, well-being and financial health; as well as the consequences of health care pricing reforms, insurance marketplace design, and rising industry market power.

The CDU/UCLA Medical Student Research Thesis Program

The CDU/UCLA Medical Education Program is committed to preparing excellent physicians by providing exceptional clinical research and practical training for individuals interested in serving urban, medically disadvantaged populations. Students enrolled in the College are required to engage in longitudinal research activity under the auspices of the Medical Student Research Thesis Program (MSRTP), which culminates in the submission of a thesis. In accordance with a bench-to-bedside approach to translational research, students have many options when choosing a health disparities-related, mentored research project, including basic, clinical, bio-behavioral/psychosocial, environmental, quality improvement, public policy, and/or educational research. Each year, the senior class presents their research findings at the annual medical student research colloquium.

*Dear Mentors,
As Chair of the Medical Student Research Thesis
Program, I would like to express my sincere
appreciation for your dedication and commitment to
the education of Medical Student Class of 2021.
Shahrzad Bazargan-Hejazi, PhD*