



The Latino Informant

Volume 2

Spring Issue, 2013



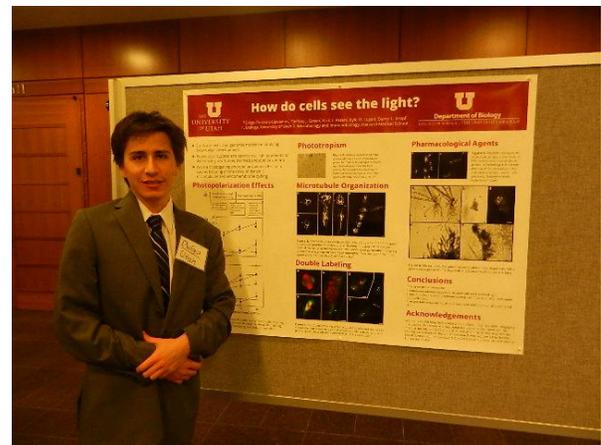
From the Editor

Hello LMSA Midwest Leaders!

It has been a great year, and I have enjoyed my time spent serving as your Regional Vice President for Academic Affairs and Health Policy. We have had some wonderful meetings this year, including the House of Delegates in Cincinnati, the Regional Conference at Loyola in Chicago this past January, and most recently the Annual National LMSA Conference held in Miami this past March. In addition, next week April 25th-28th in Washington, D.C. the National Hispanic Medical Association (of which LMSA is a member-organization) will also hold their 17th Annual Conference. Each conference has a different theme and offers a great set of programming and workshops for attendees. As always, LMSA-MW encourages our members to get involved and join us for these events. They provide an excellent venue for sharing ideas and local success stories of LMSA projects in your communities. Furthermore, they provide an opportunity for members to network with some of the country's strongest physician-leaders and advocates for Latino(a) health issues. There are also scholarships available and research symposia for students who wish to present their work. It is definitely worth considering if you have never been to one of our conferences.

At our Regional Midwest LMSA Conference in Chicago at Loyola University this past January, we heard from a number of great speakers and student-led panels. The LMSA-MW would like to again extend our thanks to the presenters and sponsors for putting on this amazing conference. As part of the Regional Conference, we hosted our Annual Research Symposium with a theme this year on Translational Research. We had a great turnout

for our poster presentation session, where students spent time with attendees presenting their research findings. All submissions this year were outstanding! It was difficult to select winners and honorable mentions from this pool of research, but our committee and judges worked diligently to evaluate each poster for its content and relevance to the conference. The following section highlights the students who won the annual research poster competition and the title of their research study.



Above: Diego F. Cordero of the University of Utah who won Honorable Mention in the Pre-Medical Student Category

Winners of the 2013 Annual Research Symposium on Translational Research, LMSA-MW Conference

First Place (\$250): Robin Ortiz (Loyola) for research on "Complementary & Alternative Medicine Use at a Chicago Clinic for Underserved"

Second Place (\$150): Rahul Bijlani (Loyola) for research on "Examining the Efficacy of a Novel Scoring System of Charcot Arthropathy Radiographs"

Third Place (\$100): Sarah Hodge (Loyola) for research on "The Effect of the Gamma-Secretase Inhibitor, MRK-003, on Notch Expression and Proliferation Rate in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Cells"



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Honorable Mention (Medical Students):

We had a tie this year after reviewing two excellent presentations.

--Lindsey Gaston (University of Michigan) for research on "Ghrelin Prevents TBI-induced Neuronal Apoptosis via Induction of Mitochondrial Uncoupling Protein 2"

And

--Thomas O'Connell (Loyola) for research on "Effects of a Chronic High-dose Vicodin on Pain Sensitivity in Rats"

Honorable Mention (Pre-Medical Student): Diego F. Cordero (University of Utah) for research on "The Effects of Light on Cells"



Above: Students present their research posters at the LMSA-MW Regional Conference at Loyola University, Chicago, IL

The Research Symposium was a success, and we again thank all the presenters for their hard work. Please join me and the rest of the LMSA-MW Executive Board Leadership in congratulating our winners for their excellent posters and presentations and for their continued passion for research. We look forward to having additional submissions for next year's conference.

Note: For more information about our conferences and events and how to participate, please visit the following websites:

www.lmsa.net

<http://www.nhmamd.org/index.php/events/17th-annual-conference>).

Leadership Transitions



The LMSA-MW Region has been fortunate this year to have benefited from shared energy and teamwork from all the Executive Board members. Co-Presidents Stacey Pereira and Luis

Rivera have shown exceptional leadership for our organization both regionally and through representing us at the national level. Their contributions will last for years to come, and we look forward to their continued involvement as they progress through their medical careers.

As with every new year and every organization come transitions in leadership. At our Regional Conference in Chicago, we had an amazing turnout of students from our member-LMSA institutions. The participants remained actively engaged through to our annual elections for Executive Board positions. LMSA-MW is happy to announce the election of our new Executive Board, which includes some continuing members. The new Executive Board of LMSA-MW will continue its pursuit of excellence in programming, advocacy, and representation for its members under the direction of newly elected Co-Presidents Alex Cortez and Thalia Torres. Congratulations to our new leadership team!



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Above: Outgoing Executive Board for LMSA-MW



Above: Congratulations to Incoming Executive Board of LMSA

Introducing New VP for Academic Affairs & Health Policy: Ana Mauro!

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming your new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Health Policy, Ana Mauro. Ana will be a wonderful addition to the Executive Board this year. Originally from Argentina, Ana pursued studies leading to an MPH before continuing to UIC for medical school. She has been actively engaged this year and has volunteered her time to helping plan for the research symposium and other LMSA projects. I am delighted that she will bring this energy and experience to your Executive Board. Ana will

transition to his position beginning May 15th of this year. Enjoy reading about her background and goals below. Congratulations, Ana!

A Letter from your New VP: Ana Mauro

It is a pleasure to serve as your incoming 2013-2014 Vice President of Academic Affairs and Health Policy! It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with you in the next coming year.

A bit about myself: I was born and raised in Argentina, and moved to Miami, FL when I was 15. After graduating with a degree in Psychology and a Masters in Public Health from Florida International University, I embarked on a non-traditional path before starting medical school this August at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Health policy has been of great interest to me for many years, but an internship at the US Department of Health, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) back in 2008 really opened my eyes to the impact of health policy on health service provision. There, I learned about the incredible work being conducted at both the federal and state levels as physicians worked together in underserved communities through federally-qualified community health centers (FQHCs). This experience truly had an impact on me as I continued to pursue a career in medicine. It's been an incredible journey so far and I cannot wait to see what's coming ahead with the LMSA family!

I am enthusiastic about the many possibilities that come with working together with you. I am passionate about addressing health disparities in medicine, improving access to care for underserved communities, and supporting medical students on their journey towards becoming health



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professionals. I hope to create and support activities that are meaningful to you and your professional development. Some ideas of events I hope to implement in the next year include highlighting opportunities for leadership in medicine, research workshops, and CV or personal statement seminars for applying to medical school or residency. Most importantly, I want to hear from you! Please let me know what you would like to see featured in the newsletter, ideas for events you'd like to attend, or anything else. For this purpose, I have created a special email account: LMSAwantstoknow@gmail.com. I look forward to receiving your comments, ideas and suggestions as we make this year LMSA's best one yet!

We are living in exciting times as new health policies continue to shape the field of medicine. As future health professionals, it is important we understand the implications of policy on both our lives and the lives of the patients we serve. I look forward to a year of personal growth and development with the LMSA family as we advocate for the wellbeing of underserved communities everywhere.

In health,
Ana

Health Policy and YOU!

As always, the policy world never sleeps and there have been some major developments this spring that are worth noting.

You may have heard of the "sequester" (or sequestration) that has been in the news recently. This policy, which effectively caps government spending in all sectors, went into effect earlier this year and has some significant implications for health and human services and research in the U.S. The sequestration language was included as part of the Budget Control Act of 2011, but President Obama and others did not expect that it would ever be applied. Back in 2011, the President appointed members to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (known as the "super committee") that was tasked to develop a comprehensive deficit reduction plan to advise Congress moving forward. Unfortunately, this committee failed in its objective and this year the sequestration (and budget cuts across the board) went into effect.

Further complicating the sequestration sequelae are additional proposed budgetary cuts included in versions of the House and Senate FY2014 Budget Resolutions as well as the President's recently released Budget. These cuts could include Graduate Medical Education (GME) spending, which directly impacts resident salaries and training programs across the country. Many of the spending cuts will also affect various health agencies including the NIH, CDC, HRSA, and AHRQ. This will affect grant funding for research and innovation as well as community outreach and education efforts. As medical students, we must be engaged in this process and voice our opposition of cuts that would affect medical education and research.

For more information on the sequestration and health policy, consult the following resources and let your voice be heard. You can get involved in advocacy with local and state-level medical



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organizations and societies (including LMSA!). After all it's your future as a resident and health professional that is at stake! Health policy affects all of us, so we owe it to ourselves and our future patients to stay involved in the process.

Additional health policy resources for further reading:

<http://www.politico.com/p/pages/sequestration/>

www.americanhealthline.com

www.insidehealthpolicy.com

Thank you, Readers

It has truly been a pleasure serving this year as the VP for Academic Affairs and Health Policy. I look forward to following the work of LMSA as a resident this year and hope to stay involved with the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA). I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and will continue to read and distribute future issues as they are published on a tri-annual basis. We are all working together to lead our medical profession forward. Let's continue on that path!

Sincerely,

Roberto J. Fernandez, MPH, OMS-IV

***NEXT ISSUE:** Please contact *The Latino Informant* with your questions, comments, or concerns:

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