



# Latino Medical Student Association at UCIrvine

Spring 2009 Newsletter

## A LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

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*Nancy & Craig, UCI LMSA Co-chairs*

As the 2008-2009 year comes to a close, we all have much to celebrate here at UCI LMSA. This spring, the organization has continued its strong commitment to outreach, particularly with the undergrad pre-health students at UCI and in nearby communities. This has included mentorship with Chicanos & Latinos for Community Medicine (CCM) and MAPS (Minority Association of Pre-Health Students). UCI LMSA has granted \$1800 in scholarships this year to

Underrepresented Minority (URM) Pre-Health students, as part of the Project HOPE foundation and CampMed. Other philanthropic LMSA expenditures have included donations to the 2009 Lobby Day effort in Sacramento (Universal Healthcare), sponsorship of URM CCM student participation at the LMSA Regional Conference, hosting UCI's Underserved Awareness Week in February, and subsidization of academic coaching for the URM CCM students.

We've rounded off the year on a high note, helping to send off the graduating students in style at the annual CCM and LMSA banquets. All around, there is much to be proud of, and we thank everyone for their hard contributions. At the same time, there is always much work remaining, and we look forward to even broader successes in the year to come!

Sincerely,  
Craig Harrison & Nancy Anaya, LMSA  
Co-Chairs



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## Check out our Home on the Web!

<http://www.ucilmsa.org/index.html>

## We're also on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3500850096>

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## THE CAMPMED EXPERIENCE

By Craig Harrison, MS1

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Over the weekend of May 15-17, 2009, UC Irvine's annual CampMed program was held. This year, 76 educationally and economically disadvantaged high school students were exposed to the health profession through this remarkably unique learning experience. CampMed is a non-profit educational-enrichment program, involving peer-mentoring that targets youth who show academic promise and are interested in pursuing health and science careers, but don't necessarily have the resources to develop their potential. This year, 3 current LMSA officers, along with dozens of other UCI Medical and Pre-Health

Undergraduate students, served as volunteer counselors for the students.

Furthermore, LMSA again had the honor of selecting & presenting \$400 "Super Mario" college Scholarships, to two of this year's most outstanding CampMed Participants.

More information on CampMed can be found at <http://CampMed.org>, and some of the photos from this year's experience can be found online <http://picasaweb.google.com/ucilmsacalendar>.



*LMSA Officers Awarding the "Super Mario" College Scholarships at CampMed 2009*



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## **THE UPCOMING 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PRE-HEALTH CONFERENCE**

**By Tania Portillo, MS1**

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The 9th Annual LMSA & SNMA Pre-Health Conference is scheduled for the last weekend of October 2009. The conference will begin on Friday October 30th with a new high school component and continue onto Saturday October 31st with activities and workshops for undergraduates, college graduates, and medical students. This year's theme is "Empowering You to Be the Future of Medicine." The theme speaks for itself and the pre-health conference committee is working diligently to ensure that all attendees have a fruitful experience.

Last year over 600 students attended the conference from schools all over California. The UC Irvine LMSA and SNMA Pre-Health Conference is truly one of a kind, providing attendees with a vast range of career options in the health care field. Additionally, 35 exhibitors represented programs in Medicine, Dentistry, Public Health, Optometry, Audiology, Nursing, Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, and many more. We are preparing a wonderful program and are very excited to have recently confirmed America Bracho, founder of Latino Health Access, as the keynote speaker. Please stay tuned and visit <http://ucilmsa.org> for program updates and registration information!



*2008 Pre-Health Conference Attendees*

## **CHICANOS & LATINOS FOR COMMUNITY MEDICINE END OF THE YEAR BANQUET**

**By Katia Sanchez, MS1**

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It was an honor to be a part of the 2009 CCM Banquet. Those in attendance were full of hope, dreams, dedication, and passion. Scanning the large dining room, one saw parents' proud faces, thrilled LMSA mentors, and of course the



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## 2009 CCM Banquet (cont.)

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hard working CCMers themselves that put the beautiful evening together.

The evening started off with a savory and delicious meal, which was also accompanied by some entertainment by the Paleros Dance group on campus. This definitely got everyone excited and in a jovial mood, ready for the memorable night to continue. As dinner wrapped up, all of the graduating senior members of CCM were presented and given the opportunity to share some words with their family and friends. The heartwarming words of these students were so honest and moving and allowed one to reflect on how significant 'paying it forward' is. The synergistic efforts of parental support, mentors' advice, and all of the sacrifices and hours of study the students put in were a common theme in the short speeches given.

Although UCI LMSA had a very difficult time deciding who would receive the Kaplan Scholarships, as there were many worthy candidates, we narrowed it down to two very deserving and dedicated women: Victoria Flores and

Ambar Grijalva. Just before the dancing began we had the privilege of listening to Dr. Manetta and Dr. Flores give us their inspiring advice and wise words for the future of medicine.

Congratulations CCM class of 2009!

## GAINING MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

By Marco Angulo, MS3

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Something exciting and electrifying that I can't explain is happening - a monumental movement. Students that I've had the utmost pleasure of working with and knowing have been GAINING ADMISSIONS to medical school and have continued in changing the world. This is tremendously encouraging news!

As past premeds, we are also aware of the pressures and obstacles that lie ahead of some of you and... Believe me; we know what some of you are going through right now! We know how it feels to wake up every day and carry the burden: "Will I get in? Is this worth it?"

We truly know... We know how it feels when you think, "If they would just give me a shot and take me for my passion..."



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## **Medical School Admissions (cont.)**

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I would prove myself to them..." We know!!! We know how it feels when your family asks you, "So when are you going to be a doctor?" THE PRESSURE... We know!!!! We know how it feels to attend a Pre-Med/Pre-Health conference and have the Dean of Admissions say that they "need you" while you sit in the audience and think to yourself, "I'm here!! I'm here!! Why is this admissions bar so high???" We know. We also know how you feel when you've worked so hard for a test only to have your heart SINK with a grade that didn't represent your efforts and to think, "The dream is over, I'm not getting in." We know this feeling! We get this! We understand what you are going through. AND we're here to tell you...YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

I can honestly say that all of these thoughts have crossed our minds, more than you can imagine! I am here to tell you that WE UNDERSTAND!! There are generations of Medical Students that have paved the path that you are treading. Know that we are here for you to see you on your wonderful journey. Know that the magic that is happening right now is because of you. Believing in your journey begins with YOU!

## **THANKS TO OUR 2009-2010 LMSA OFFICERS!**

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### **Co-Chairs:**

Craig Harrison & Nancy Anaya

**Secretary:** Kim Ramirez

**Treasurer:** Karen Ambert

**Mentorship Chair:** Katia Sanchez

**Outreach Coordinator:** Tania Portillo

### **Post-Bac Admissions Liaison:**

Didi Mwendela

### **Medical Student Representatives:**

Karen Espino & Megan Tan

### **Undergraduate Representative:**

Marco Angulo & Manuel Cortes

### **Community Affairs Liason:**

Julio Monterrey & Thiago Halmer

**Webmaster:** Reuben Paul

### **Newsletter Editor/Historian:**

Marce Evans