

Award Presenters

(alphabetically by last name)



William Clark, PhD – Executive Director, Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation

Dr. William Clark was trained as a biochemist and spent 30 years in cardiac research in several Chicago Universities (University of Illinois, University of Chicago, Michael Reese Hospital, and Northwestern University Medical School). In 1995 he joined the Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation as Research Director, and in 1998 as Executive Director. As the Foundation's director, Dr. Clark worked with the board of directors of the Foundation to carry on the mission of the Foundation, to support research, education, and community service. A major component of that support has been to support education in the health sciences which the Foundation has accomplished by funding research, endowed professorships, and student scholarships in Chicago institutions.



Joseph Cooper, MD – Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, University of Illinois College of Medicine

Dr. Joseph Cooper is Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Director of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry, Director of the Neuropsychiatry Program, and Co-Director of the Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry Fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He completed undergraduate studies in Neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University, medical degree and residency in Psychiatry at the University of Chicago, and fellowship training in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry at Northwestern University. His areas of clinical interest and active scholarship include psychiatric education, with a particular focus on neuroscience and neuropsychiatric education in psychiatry; catatonia, particularly the medical causes of catatonia; and electroconvulsive therapy. He is an Executive Council member of the National Neuropsychiatric Curriculum Initiative (NNCI), a collaboration between educators and neuroscientists to help psychiatrists and other clinicians integrate modern neuroscience into every aspect of education and clinical practice. Dr. Cooper is a member of MOLA's Education and Research committee, bilingual in Spanish and English, and the proud father of four Hispanic children.



Joaquín Estrada, MD, FASCRS – Vice President, MOLA; Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

Dr. Joaquín J. Estrada is a double board certified Colon and Rectal Surgeon who serves as the surgical director of the Digestive Health Institute at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical center in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Estrada is an assistant clinical professor in the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He also serves as core teaching faculty at the University of Illinois Metropolitan Group Hospital Residency in General Surgery. He has been active member of local and national professional and scientific societies such as the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, Society of Surgical Oncology, American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, Chicago Surgical Society, Chicago Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery, and Medical Organization for Latino Advancement. Dr. Estrada's clinical activities have been funded by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, Colon Cancer Coalition, and the Retirement Research Fund. Dr. Estrada is the author of more than 50 publications, invited manuscripts, abstracts and presentations. He is a fellow of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery and an associate fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Estrada received his bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences at the University of California, Riverside in 1999. He

received his MD from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2003. Dr. Estrada completed his internship and residency in General Surgery at Los Angeles County + University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles. He completed a research fellowship in Pediatric surgery in the Division of Pediatric surgery at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and completed a clinical fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at Cook County Hospital of Chicago. Dr. Estrada is co-founder and Vice President of MOLA since its inception, leads the organization's Advocacy Committee, actively supports the Mentorship Committee, and led the inaugural year of MOLA Summer Scholar program.



Richard Gómez – Medical Student, Loyola Stritch School of Medicine; MOLA Medical Student Committee Co-Chair

After earning his Stanford degree in 2011, Richard moved to and lived in Los Angeles for six years, working in different fields, including health technology business data analysis and coordinating cancer trials at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Following his non-traditional path to medicine, he moved to Chicago to begin his M.D. program at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine. He is passionate about the mission of MOLA. He hopes to use his experiences to build his leadership skills and knowledge base, in order to address health disparities among marginalized communities as part of his practice. He is a third year medical student, and he plans on becoming a psychiatrist and practice back in California. Richard serves as co-chair of MOLA's Medical Student Committee.



Geraldine Luna, MD, MPH – Treasurer, MOLA; Assistant Professor, University of Illinois College of Medicine

Dr. Geraldine Luna is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Geriatrics Fellowship at the Department of Medicine and Geriatrics of UIC. She started her medical degree at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara and then transfer to Ponce School of Medicine in Puerto Rico in 2005, and went on to earn her Residency in Internal Medicine in the San Juan City Hospital in Puerto Rico in 2009. She has also completed Subspecialty Fellowships in Geriatrics and Advanced Geriatrics Research Track in UIC in 2011 and 2012. She is currently a candidate to receive a Master's in Public Health in Health Policy and Administration in May 2017. Dr. Luna is board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. She is actively taking part in community and academic roles such as: board of directives in Urban and Global Health at UIC, editorial board member of Gavin Publisher for the International Journal of Geriatrics and Gerontology, and now executive treasurer and board director of the Medical Organization for Latino Advancement. Dr. Luna has various clinical interests in the healthcare of geriatric population and in general public health such as healthcare disparities. Her current research investigations underlie frailty syndrome in the elderly, falls and retraining gait interventions in the elder, transition of healthcare and advanced care planning, as well as cultural barriers in healthcare.



Jonathan Moreira, MD – Scholarship Subcommittee Chair, MOLA; Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine

About the Presenter: See full bio under "Moderators"



2019

3rd MOLA LATINO HEALTH SYMPOSIUM
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Pilar Ortega, MD – President, MOLA; University of Illinois College of Medicine, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

About the Presenter: See full bio under “Speakers”