

MOLA Summer Interns

(alphabetically by last name)



Gabriela Fuentes

Project title: An examination of the disproportionate impact of well-being for underrepresented minority medical community, does perceived institutional diversity climate play a role? (Poster# 15)

Mentor: Fidel Castillo, MD – University of Illinois Chicago

Gabriela Fuentes is a medical student at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine. As a beneficiary of physician pipeline programs such as Medicina Scholars, she returned her passion for education to the community by working in the Health Professional Recruitment and Exposure Program (HPREP). Gabriela completed her undergraduate degree in 2017 receiving both Upper Division and Departmental honors in the field of Biology at Northern Illinois University (NIU). During her undergraduate career, she was a research intern in infectious disease at Harvard Medical School, started a chapter of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) at NIU, and worked as a research assistant through an AMSENG-NASA contract where she attempted to improve the synthesis of boron nitride nanotubes in collaboration with Argonne National Laboratory and NIU. During her gap-year,

Gabriela became an Educational Facilitator at Northeastern Illinois University, where she constructed and implemented STEM-driven programs for low-income and first-generation students in the Chicagoland area.



Yanina Guevara

Project title: Sanctuary Hospitals: The development of policy that aims to protect and treat undocumented immigrant patients (Poster# 28)

Mentor: Jesús Ruiz, MEd - Dean, College of Lake County, Lakeshore Campus

Yanina Guevara is a medical student at the Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University. They are a first generation student with immigrant parents from Colombia and Honduras. They are a strong advocate of equitable and just access to healthcare for all individuals specifically uninsured and/or undocumented patients. They are a member of Salud Sin Papeles, which is an undocumented led organization that aims to educate and connect undocumented people with existing healthcare resources.



Shojanny María Salazar Ponce, MD – Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador; Co-chair, International Medical Graduate Committee, MOLA

Project title: “Educational Needs and Preferences Assessment of Latino Physicians and Medical Trainees: An Exploratory Survey Study to Complement the MOLA Mentorship Program” (Oral# 6)

Mentor: Isabel Castrejón, MD, PhD – Rush University Medical Center

About the Intern: See full bio under “Oral Presenters.”