

OUR FAMILY RESIDENCY FELLOWSHIP STUDENT ROTATIONS BLOG HOME



Cesar Barba, M.D.
UCLA/Drew Medical Education Program

We know Cesar from his Family Medicine Sub-Internship with us and his participation in the Summer Urban Preceptorship Fellowship Program in 2005. He is bilingual in Spanish and English and enjoys hiking, scuba diving, running and snowboarding.

He was raised in an immigrant family in Southern California and attended college at the University of California, Santa Barbara receiving a BS in Molecular and Cellular Biology. He is the first in his family to attend and graduate from college.

During medical school he has been active in LMSA, volunteered at numerous health fairs and served as a mentor to high school students and undergraduate premeds. In addition, he has been a coordinator for the National Youth Leadership Forum at UCLA, has volunteered as Primary Care Representative of the Drew-UCLA School of Medicine and has served on the Admissions Committee.

Having himself been uninsured, he is passionate about working with underserved patients and plans to devote his career to working with this population.

In medical school, he was a GE/NMF Fellow and travelled to Ghana for 2 months. He also received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Award for Humanism in Medicine.



Michael Core, M.D.
Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine

We know Michael from his Sub-Internship in the Family Health Center and from his participation in the Summer Urban Preceptor Fellowship in 2005. He grew up in Southern California and received a BS in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology from Yale University.

During medical school Michael was been a student organizer for the Cover the Uninsured Week, helped to organize a conference to educate the community regarding Health Disparities, volunteered for the Tar Wars program and helped to organize an elective at a safety net community health clinic. He has also been a student volunteer for the Center for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and as an undergraduate, volunteered at the Venice Family Clinic. As a medical student he received the Clinic Service Award and the Student Mentorship Award.

His ideal of medicine is that espoused by Dr. Ernesto "Che" Guevara who stated that Physicians should go out into the community and become intimately involved with it so that they could understand what the population needed. He hopes to become such an advocate for his underserved patients and community.



Gwen Gleason-Rohrer, M.D.
Loma Linda University School of Medicine

Gwen was raised in Central California and attended undergrad at Point Loma Nazarene University where she completed a BA in Sociology. We know her from her Sub-Internship in the Family Health Center.

During medical school Gwen was one of the Cofounders and Executive Director of the Health Disparities Student Task Force in addition to being Community Outreach Co-Coordinator and then Vice President of the Family Medicine Interest Group. She was a member in the Health Cabinet in her church, participating in weekly blood pressure screenings in needy communities and providing educational sessions on nutrition and healthy behaviors in conjunction with the church's food distribution program. She also worked at a Family Advocate for the Food Resource Center at Catholic Charities prior to beginning medical school.

She is the recipient of the McKenzie Foundation Scholarship, awarded to medical students preparing to provide primary care in underserved communities. In addition, she was a student and volunteer in a rural health clinic in Guatemala.

She is fluent in Spanish. Her hobbies include backpacking and hiking, cycling, running, reading and church and community activities.

She looks forward to a career in Family Medicine so that she can care for individuals and their families as well as address health concerns at a community level. She views Medicine as a vocation with an opportunity to serve others and to work for justice in our healthcare system.



Shahram Javdanfar, M.D.
Medical School: Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science/Chicago Medical School
Undergraduate: UCLA, B.S. in Psychobiology

A native Californian, Shahram is looking forward to returning to Los Angeles. During his undergraduate years, he had extensive research experience, working as a research assistant on: a project studying women at risk for developing breast cancer, and a project looking at promotion of high academic achievement among students from low income and educationally disadvantaged communities. In addition, he was a teaching assistant for upper division courses and in the Department of Education and the Department of Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology. He even found time to work as a tutor and volunteer at the King-Drew Medical Center.

During medical school, Shahram has been the director of training of the Community AIDS Resource Education Service, an outreach organization that provides AIDS education to local schools. He has also been a representative for the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program, which provides substance abuse prevention outreach to local schools. He has volunteered at health fairs for low income and underserved families, and has been a member of the admissions committee.

Through family medicine, Shahram hopes to understand issues contributing to compliance in underserved patients and to help and uniquely impact the lives of others and watch with satisfaction their healing, growth and improvement.



Tipu Khan, M.D.
University of Washington School of Medicine

Tipu saw the strong work ethic of his immigrant parents and it inspired his efforts at reaching out to the underserved while supporting himself and his family throughout his educational career.

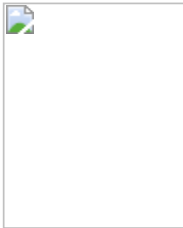
He worked full time while earning a double major at UC Davis; a BS in Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior and a BA in Philosophy. While at Davis, he helped to create a new student-run homeless clinic as founding Director of Volunteer Services and was also involved in competitive wrestling, Jiu-Jitsu and Karate.

During medical school he has been a clinical investigator on numerous studies resulting in publications in multiple peer reviewed journals. As founding Clinic Director and Board President, he helped create the Al- Shifa clinic, the first student-run clinic at the University of Washington. He was a group leader for a Beyond Borders Immigrant Conference and participated in a year long clinic continuity rotation at a public hospital. He also served on the Admissions Committee and as a Board Member of the Deans Diversity Board. All the while, he and his wife operated a photography business.

Tipu enjoys the variety of care involved in Family Medicine and has dedicated himself to working with the underserved.

He is fluent in Urdu and Hindi and conversant in Spanish. He enjoys preparing ethnic cuisine, photography, reading and writing and has a purple belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and a black belt in Okinawan Kenpo Karate.

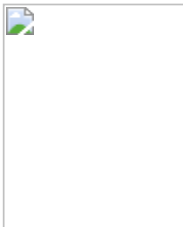
Tipu is the recipient of the Durward A. Huckabay Jr Scholarship and the John and Mary Wilson Scholarship, both awarded for academic merit and community service.



Gustavo Mondragon, M.D.
 Medical School: Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara /Fifth Pathway at Ponce School of Medicine
 Undergraduate: University California Los Angeles, BS in Biology

Gustavo joins Harbor-UCLA Department of Family Medicine with an endearing smile and amazing background. Throughout his undergraduate career at UCLA he volunteered as a medical assistant at Venice Family Clinic and learned the importance of maintaining “excellent organization, communication, interpersonal and multi-tasking skills” while working with patients. He went onto challenge himself as a telemetry technologist and mastered managing multiple alarms and patients that were in asystole!

Gustavo’s humble attitude is a testament to his background and work ethic. After working in multiple specialties he concludes, “A career in Family Medicine [means] the focus on the family unit stands out as the most influential”. Recently married, he is excited to start his residency and eventually return as “MD” in an underserved clinic like Venice Family Clinic.



Jordana Price, M.D.
 Temple University School of Medicine

Jordana was raised in Northern California and attended UC Davis earning a BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

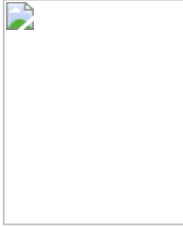
She has shown a concern for the disenfranchised since a young age, motivated by the Jewish principle of Tikkun Olam, “repairing the world”.

After college, she spent one year as a participant in Avodah, the Jewish Service Corps. This yearlong faith-based communal service program is associated with Americorps. She served as a Medical Clinic Coordinator for Bread For The City Medical Clinic in Washington DC. Here she witnessed firsthand the difficulties that people face trying to access health care.

During medical school she continued her outreach activities as a Student Coordinator for a clinic and needle exchange program and volunteered as the Bioethics Interest Group Co-Coordinator for AMSA. She has also been an Ethics Rounds Coordinator for her schools Medical Ethics Society Elective and has studied Jewish Medical Ethics in Israel.

In family medicine she finds the perfect niche to deliver holistic and humane care to her patients. She has a special interest in women's health and geriatrics and sees her practice as the perfect way to do her part for Tikkun Olam.

Jordana is the recipient of the Maimonides Summer Scholars Fellowship.



Mark Song, M.D.
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

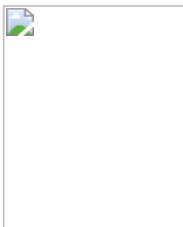
Mark grew up in Southern California and attended UCLA, receiving a BS in Biology. While in college, he volunteered as a Community Service Officer for the UCLA Premedical Society, was a Senior Intern for the Community Outreach Prevention and Education (COPE) Program and was Vice President of the UCLA Korean American Students Association. He also worked as a healthcare consultant to several firms involved in different projects related to revenue cycle re-engineering, patient billing and denial processing management, as well as securing sponsorship for the uninsured.

During medical school Mark has been the Student Council Class President, Social Coordinator, President of the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association and has Co-Chaired the LCME Student Survey Subcommittee and Dean's Student Advisory Committee. In addition, he was the Deans' appointee to the AAMC Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) and volunteered at the Friendship Clinic, a student-run free clinic.

He speaks Korean, is conversant in Spanish, and enjoys playing the drums, snowboarding, volleyball, basketball and traveling.

We know Mark from his Sub-I in the Family Health Center. He sees Family Medicine as the ideal specialty for incorporating diversity and variety. He anticipates a future working with underserved patients and incorporating local free clinic work, urgent care, and international medicine into his practice.

Mark was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society, awarded the Bernard H. Smookler Scholarship, Sorkin Family Medicine Scholarship, and Rita Hopkinson Endowed Memorial Scholarship for Primary Care, nominated as a finalist for the Burke Award in Pediatrics, and given the Award for Best MSU Student Clinical Presentation.



Christian Takayama, M.D.
University of California San Diego School of Medicine

Christian was born and raised in Lima Peru, immigrating to the United States as a child with his family. He and his family were uninsured and primarily spoke Spanish, an unfortunate combination when they tried to access health care. This spurred Christian to become an advocate for the poor and uninsured.

He attended UC San Diego earning a BA in Psychology while volunteering at the Saint Vincent De Paul Village and as a College Application Coordinator.

During medical school he has volunteered with Doctors Ought to Care, was the Student Council Director of Community Outreach and Relations, and has been an active member of LMSA. He has served as the Clinic Manager for the Baker Street Student-Run Free Clinic and recently has brought free legal services to this clinic to assist with issues related to health benefits, immigration, domestic violence and property management.

Christian is fluent in Spanish and enjoys baseball, basketball, football, soccer, Guitar Hero and Karaoke.

He was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society and has been the recipient of numerous academic scholarships.

Christian feels that Family Medicine provides the best vehicle for providing care for underserved patients and would like to dedicate his career to helping this population.



Carla Toms, M.D.
Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California

Carla was a pathologist working as a Deputy Medical Examiner for the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office and had just completed a Fellowship in Forensic Pathology when she questioned her path in life. She had long missed direct patient care and through a series of mystical events, found herself working as a staff physician in a one-room free clinic on Skid Row sponsored by Catholic Worker, CA.

That experience quickly blossomed into volunteering with the UCLA Mobile Medical Clinic, in addition to volunteering on a Mobile Needle Exchange Van that also provides basic medical care and to staffing a clinic on Skid Row that provides medical outreach and a needle exchange program.

Carla is dedicated to providing care to this vulnerable population and feels the best way to accomplish this is by retraining to be a Family Physician. She enjoys the impact she can make in practicing "street medicine" and brings a strong faith that this is what she was destined to accomplish.

She is the recipient of numerous academic awards during medical school.



Elvina Torres-Campos, M.D.
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Elvina was raised in San Francisco and attended UC Santa Barbara where she received a BA in Chicano Studies.

She worked at LA BioMed as a research assistant and volunteered at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center as a Spanish language translator while working as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

During medical school she volunteered as a Student Interviewer, a School Representative and as a medical student volunteer at the Birmingham Free Clinic. In addition, she served as Co-Coordinator for the group, Students and Latinos United Against Disparities, and was an advisor/mentor to first year medical students.

She has also volunteered her time at the Clinica Oscar Romero, a community clinic serving a predominantly Latino uninsured population.

She is fluent in Spanish and proficient in French and Armenian. She enjoys playing volleyball, cooking, yoga and gardening.

Elvina looks forward to a career providing excellent and compassionate care to her patients and empowerment strategies to their communities.



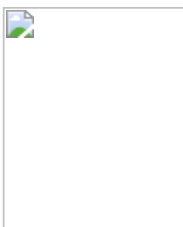
Jack Tsai, M.D.
University of California San Diego School of Medicine

Jack was raised locally in the South Bay and attended UCLA, earning a BS in Physiological Sciences. Throughout his life he has been involved in his church's outreach activities and youth group and has served as the Western Region Student Representative of the Christian Medical and Dental Association for the past eight years.

During medical school he was the Co-Coordinator of Street Outreach, providing care to the homeless and working poor. He has also participated in outreach activities to the poor in Mexico, including an orphanage in Tecate and has provided leadership duties for the UCSD Christian Medical Fellowship.

Jack appreciates the comprehensive medical care that is at the core of Family Medicine and wants to practice with the medically underserved. He sees his future as providing patients with compassionate and comprehensive care and advocating for those without resources.

Jack is fluent in Mandarin and conversant in Spanish. He recently completed a Spanish immersion course in Ecuador. He is an avid tennis player (High School Varsity Team National Champions, 2000), and enjoys basketball and snowboarding. He plays violin and guitar and is the recipient of numerous academic awards.

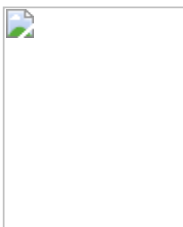


Keri Wardwell, M.D.
 Medical School: University of California, Davis
 Undergraduate: UCLA, B.A. in Political Science

A native Californian, Keri has had a long history of community activism. During her undergraduate years at UCLA, she was a summer camp counselor, a tutor for Project Literacy and a volunteer for Free Arts for abused children. She has spent time in voluntary poverty in LA's skid row, working to meet the social and medical needs of the homeless population. In the summer of 1997, Keri was selected as a congressional intern and worked in the office of Jane Harman, and later returned to Washington, DC in the spring of 1999 as an intern to the First Lady in the Clinton Administration. In 2000, she was selected as a Fulbright Scholar and conducted independent research studying Germany's employer-based universal health plan. This fellowship was followed by her working as a residential counselor in a crisis shelter for adolescents in the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco and volunteering at the Tom Waddell Health Center, serving the homeless of San Francisco

Keri's activism has continued throughout medical school. She volunteered at the Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic, providing services on a mobile clinic to IV drug users and sex workers, and at the Willow Project, a student-run homeless clinic providing health care to homeless individuals, as well as for Health Power, an organization that facilitates medical students providing health education and health promotion activities in local elementary schools. She has also been co-director of her school's chapter of Student Physicians for Social Responsibility, organizing campaigns to raise awareness related to domestic violence, gun safety, needle exchange and healthy school lunches.

In Family Medicine, Keri has found a career that can integrate public health, political awareness and meaningful relationships with patients from underserved communities. She sees family medicine as ideal for promoting mental, physical and behavioral well being in individuals and families. She sees her role as that of an advocate and coach, empowering patients to make choices regarding their health, and she plans to work with homeless in underserved populations in the future.



Melissa Wong, M.D.
 Northwestern University-The Feinberg School of Medicine

Melissa was raised in northern California and attended college at UC Davis, earning a BS in biological sciences. She worked as a Research Assistant, a Montessori Preschool Teacher and a Marketing Assistant for a food company.


During medical school she volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, working on building homes in Northern California. She was a volunteer for Patient Perspectives, working with hospitalized pediatric patients and their families and was a volunteer at a VA Nursing Home and Hospice.

She volunteered as a Reading Tutor for pre-Kindergarten children in an underserved area of Chicago and was the Coordinator of Chinatown Clinic, a student-run clinic serving underserved Chinese patients in Chicago. In addition she was Co-President of AMSA and a Student Activities Board Member of AMSA. In this capacity she helped to raise funds for displaced medical students following hurricane Katrina and for victims of the South

Asian tsunami disaster.

Melissa is excited to enter the field of family medicine and anticipates forming memorable relationships with her patients. She is interested in working in an urban underserved community and in completing a master's in public health in order to better serve her community.

Melissa is fluent in Cantonese and conversant in Spanish. She enjoys traveling, reading, running, movies and karaoke.



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