

Scripps Mercy Family Medicine Residents – Class of 2023



Alec Gabriel Contag, MD

Oregon Health & Science University

Alec is originally from Caracas, Venezuela, but grew up in McLean, VA.

As a medical student at the Oregon Health & Science University, Alec was an active member of the Sports Medicine, Orthopedic, and Latino Medical Student Associations. His proudest moment was co-creating an introductory medical Spanish elective to help his peers better connect with their Spanish speaking patients. He was inducted to the Gold Humanism Honor Society for his service, awarded the Swindells Family Scholarship for his leadership, and was recognized by the OHSU All-Hill student council for his mentorship.

He studied engineering as an undergraduate at the Johns Hopkins University, where he also served as a volunteer EMT and swam competitively. His journey to medicine began with KGI's post-baccalaureate program in Claremont, CA where he was part of the student Ethics Committee.

In his free time, Alec is an avid soccer fan, enjoys staying fit at the gym or pool, and loves practicing the very few Latin dance moves he still remembers.



Juan Carlos Lozano, MD

Saint Louis University - School of Medicine

Juan Carlos was born and raised in Las Vegas, NV. Born the year his family immigrated from Zacatecas, Mexico, he was the first of his family to grow up north of the border and know the beauty of biculturalism. He and his family, which includes three older sisters, still return to their rural home village in Zacatecas every summer.

Juan Carlos graduated from Saint Louis University's School of Medicine with a distinction in research for his projects on the effects of smoking on skin cancer development and their disproportionate prevalence in minority communities.

During his time in St. Louis, he also served as lead for Doctors for Diversity, the Hispanic Health Interest Group, and created the medical school's Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) chapter, which together

with his colleagues, started bilingual health screenings in underserved communities, among various other projects.

Juan Carlos attended Cornell University as an undergraduate where he majored in Biological Sciences and minored in East Asian Studies. To further pursue his cultural studies, as well as his love for teaching, he worked as an English teacher and cultural ambassador in Kizugawa City, Japan, through the Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) program. Continuing his passion for teaching, he later returned to Las Vegas and worked as an assistant teacher for primary school students with occupational needs.

His hobbies include running, studying Korean, eating an unhealthy amount of carne asada fries, and daydreaming about his next travel adventure. He maintains a strong passion for creating a more equitable world — starting with medicine at what he considers his dream residency at Scripps Mercy Hospital Chula Vista.



Arienne Malekmadani, MD

University of California, San Francisco - School of Medicine

Arienne grew up in the Bay Area and was raised by a loving and goofy family of Iranian immigrants.

After working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and various community health organizations in NYC, Arienne returned to the Bay Area to study medicine at UCSF and join the PRIME-US family. Her time at UCSF focused on partnering with marginalized communities and promoting primary care through her work with White Coats 4 Black Lives, Primary Care Progress, PRIME and the Society for Women in Medicine. She was awarded the Vanderryn and

MacKenzie Awards for primary care.

She studied Public Health at UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, where she discovered her passion for tackling health inequities and social determinants of health. Arienne's other professional interests include women's health, adolescent health, reproductive justice and health policy.

In her free time, Arienne enjoys the beach and ocean, spending quality time with her loved ones, reading novels and enjoying various combinations of bread and cheese.



Eden Perez, MD

University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria

Eden grew up in San Juan Capistrano, CA.

He graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, where he assisted at a student-run free clinic, mentored undergraduate pre-med students, and was an active member of the Latino Medical Student Association.

After high school, he stayed in South Orange County and attended community college at Saddleback College prior to transferring to nearby UC Irvine where he graduated with a B.S. in Biological Sciences.

During his undergraduate years, he was actively involved in community outreach and helped create a pipeline science and mentorship program for underprivileged youth in Santa Ana. Eden looks forward to continuing his work in medically underserved communities.

His hobbies include running, hiking, eating, and spending time with friends and family. Eden has also completed 10 marathons and various other races.



Sean Posada, MD, MA

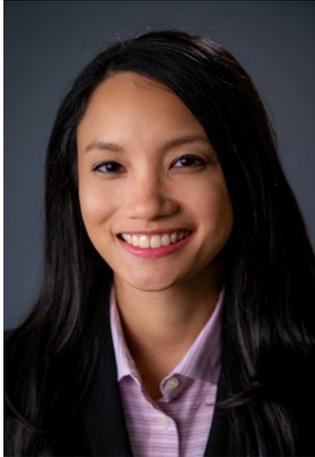
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Sean grew up in Elizabeth, NJ.

He attended medical school at Northwestern University in Chicago where he earned a dual degree MD/MA in Medical Humanities and Bioethics. At Northwestern, he developed a passion for health education, palliative care and addressing disparities in access to medicine.

Prior to medical school, he graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in Science, Technology, and Society, where he won a Stanford Latino Community Highest Academic Honors award. He then worked as a scribe in the emergency department of Jersey City Medical Center.

Sean's hobbies include cooking, longboard surfing and video games. Most of all, he loves spending time with his family, friends, and his two dogs, Macchiato and Lana.



Hazel Ann B. Roxas, MD

San Juan Bautista School of Medicine

Hazel was born and raised in the Philippines and came to the United States at 13. Since then, she has lived in South Los Angeles, Sacramento and the Bay Area.

Hazel attended medical school at San Juan Bautista School of Medicine in Caguas, Puerto Rico where she actively participated in post-Hurricane Maria relief medical missions throughout the island, leading to her induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. As a physician, her interests lie in migrant health, community medicine, health education, trauma-informed care, behavioral health and addiction medicine.

She completed her undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley with a degree in Integrative Biology. During those years, she developed a long-term commitment to serving the disadvantaged both in the Bay Area as well as abroad in Peru and Chile.

In her free time, she enjoys cuddling with her dog, playing basketball, competing in board games with friends and playing the piano.



Tenaya Siva, MD

University of Minnesota Medical School

Tenaya grew up right here in San Diego.

He attended the University of Minnesota's Medical School in Duluth with a focus on rural and Native health. During his time in Minnesota, he served on the board of the Association of Native American Medical Students, was a Native American Mentoring Program Scholar, and acted as co-director of the Pre-Matriculation program where he helped create an in-depth curriculum that prepares underrepresented students for the rigors of medical school.

Tenaya is a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society and enjoys taking part in local efforts to improve health outcomes for medically underserved populations. His medical interests include addiction medicine and preventative health program design.

Tenaya earned his bachelor's degree in Human Biology at Revelle College at UCSD. Next, he attended San Diego State University's MPH program in Epidemiology where he explored the relationship between substance use disorder development and childhood victimization in sexual orientation minorities.

He enjoys spending free time with his children, outdoors and reading anything other than science or medicine.



Cristina Tapia, MD

University of California, Riverside School of Medicine

Cristina's decision to pursue medicine is rooted in her unwavering sense of responsibility that she has for her community. As a daughter of Mexican immigrants, she grew up witnessing health disparities among fellow minority groups in LA County, learning how deep medical mistrust runs in areas where non-English speakers are the majority.

She believes border populations are an extension of these medically indigent communities, which has drawn her to serve the community of Chula Vista and its surrounding neighborhoods.

Prior to receiving her Degree of Medicine from the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine, Cristina's kindness and passion to serve vulnerable populations was well known. She was inducted as a Gold Humanism Honor Society scholar and awarded a mini grant to fund a resource project for local at-risk populations by the UCR Center for Healthy Communities.

Cristina chose Family Medicine because of its natural role in addressing health disparities through advocacy, outreach, and education. Other professional interests include women's reproductive health and border health.

In her free time, you will find her dancing to Spanish music or hanging out with her loved ones and adopted dog, Ivy. She also enjoys playing board games.



Jack Utz, MD

University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine

Jack grew up in Chula Vista, CA and is thrilled to be back in this community for residency. Before graduating from the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, he earned his bachelor's degree in Neuroscience from UCLA.

His medical interests include lifestyle medicine and the impact of nutrition on health. In his free time, he enjoys playing guitar, hiking the mountains of Southern California, going to the beach and watching horror movies.