

Scripps Mercy Family Medicine Residents – Class of 2028



Mariela Magaña Ceballos, DO

she/her/hers

A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona

Mariela was born in Michoacán, Mexico, after immigrating at the age of four. She grew up in the eastern Coachella Valley, an immigrant farm-working community. She is a proud daughter of farm workers and is the eldest of four. She was the first in her family to attend college, completing her undergraduate education at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Mariela majored in biology and minored in Spanish. Before matriculating into medical school, she worked full-time and completed an unofficial post-baccalaureate through UCLA Extension.

During the six-year gap, Mariela moved to Oklahoma, where she worked as a health coordinator. She taught mental health, health promotion and leadership skills to high school students. She then followed her passion of advocating for marginalized and underserved communities through her roles as Policy Advocate with the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability (LCJA), Implementation Manager with Lift to Rise (LTR) and Data Quality Analyst with the UCLA Family AIDS Network. As a Policy Advocate, Mariela worked alongside community residents in the Eastern Coachella Valley to advocate for affordable housing, access to safe drinking water, transportation equity and environmental justice. LCJA has shaped her understanding of how social determinants of health have a direct impact on patient health outcomes. At LTR, she helped convene local, private and governmental partners to help establish what is now the Housing Collaborative Network, with the aim to help reduce the rent burden in the Coachella Valley. She has also served as the board vice president. Mariela has deep love for her community, despite not living there physically, she is always finding ways in which she can collaborate with local organizations.

Mariela recently served as an intern with the federally qualified health center (FQHC) Inncare on a colorectal cancer community-based research project. At UCLA Family AIDS Network, she worked closely with women living with HIV in Los Angeles County, where she advocated for increased funding to provide more support services. Throughout her medical journey, she has been part of multiple pipeline programs that include UCLA MEDPEP, Health Career Connection, MiMentor, UCR's Future Physician Leaders Program and National Medical Fellowship.

For medical school, Mariela attended A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona. She was part of the San Ysidro Health cohort, which allowed her to be part of the Chula Vista community for the past three years as a SY Health Civic Engagement Intern. She is a National Health Service Corps scholar. As a medical student, she was president of the A.T. Still University Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) chapter and served as a Developmental Officer for LMSA West Regional board.

Mariela finds joy spending time in nature with family and friends, Pilates, and assembling Lego kits. On her golden weekends you will probably find her visiting Valle de Guadalupe with her husband, drinking wine and eating delicious food.



Evelyn Lozano, MD

She/her/ella

The University of New Mexico School of Medicine

Evelyn was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico, alongside her two brothers. Her parents immigrated to the US in 1995 from Cuauhtemoc, Chihuahua, Mexico, where much of her maternal family continues to reside.

Evelyn's first exposure to medicine was as a certified nursing assistant in her senior year of high school, working in her local hospital on the medical-surgical floor. She would go on to move to Albuquerque to attend The University of New Mexico (UNM), where she majored in biology and psychology. While at UNM, she worked as a mentor and tutor for immigrant and migrant farm workers seeking to obtain their GED. She also worked as a lab aide in the medical school's

neuroscience department, where she would later work as a lab technician during her gap years and first two years of medical school. In 2017, she joined the Refugee Wellbeing Project as an advocate for displaced families resettling in the US. She continued this work through her preclinical years of medical school. Around the same time, in undergrad, she found her passion for medicine while volunteering at a family medicine practice that largely served the uninsured and Mexican immigrant communities. Wishing to have a better understanding of the Mexican healthcare system, she spent a year in Mexico volunteering in a centro de salud in the small, mountain village of Carichi.

In medical school Evelyn helped establish the Clinical Communications Skills in Spanish elective, engaged in community research focused on the experience of Mexican immigrant women affected by depression, and was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

She is thrilled to be joining the Scripps family in Chula Vista, serving the patient population that is so near and dear to her heart. Her interests within family medicine include outpatient women's health, adolescent health in school-based health centers, and global/border healthcare.

When not engaging with her community, you can find Evelyn at home watching a random anime show with her husband, cooking, doing deep cleans of her home, or exploring a new area of beautiful San Diego.



Jazmin Bárcenas, MD

She/Her/Ella

UCSD School of Medicine

Jazmin was born and raised in San Diego (Spring Valley, to be precise!), the youngest of two children in a Mexican immigrant family. Growing up near the border, she frequently traveled between Mexicali, B.C., and Spring Valley, which shaped her bicultural identity.

After several years in community college, Jazmin transferred to the University of California San Diego (UCSD) for her bachelor's degree and built a successful career in San Diego's biotechnology industry. Driven by her dream of becoming a physician, she returned to UCSD to complete a post-baccalaureate program and earned her medical degree at the UCSD School of Medicine.

During medical school, Jazmin helped manage the psychiatry clinic at the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinic and served as co-mentorship chair for the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA). In her LMSA role, she helped lead the Pre-Medical Scholars Program for aspiring UCSD pre-med students. She also contributed as a medical student board member for Latinas in Medicine, co-creating workshops to support underrepresented students navigating medical school admissions.

Jazmin is grateful to join the Scripps Chula Vista family, where she is excited to grow as a family physician while staying rooted near in her hometown.

Outside of medicine, Jazmin enjoys relaxing with vinyl records, alongside her husband Humberto and their cat Luna. An avid Nintendo gamer, she's currently playing Breath of the Wild for the third time.



Carolina Ochoa, MD
she/her/ella
LSU Health Shreveport

Carolina was born in Kenner, Louisiana to Honduran-immigrant parents. As the eldest of two daughters and the first in her family to attend college. Her path to medicine was shaped by her parents' sacrifices and her mother's struggles with accessing healthcare. She attended the University of Notre Dame as a QuestBridge scholar and earned her Bachelor of Science degree with the intent of attending medical school. During undergrad, she volunteered with organizations such as Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns and the Institute for Latino Studies, nurturing a passion for mentorship and community outreach while cultivating an early interest in primary care. She also studied abroad in Mexico and Ecuador and participated in

global health case competitions to deepen her understanding of healthcare systems.

Before medical school at LSU Health Shreveport, Carolina worked as a medical scribe in a neurology clinic and as a Spanish medical interpreter in the New Orleans area. She also served as a project supervisor in Panama for a non-profit organization, Amigos de las Americas, and contributed to a research project on early-onset colorectal cancer rates in the US. In medical school, she continued exploring her interest in research through several projects and completed a Research Distinction Track on a project regarding substance use disorder in women of reproductive age. Carolina also held leadership roles in student groups such as Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) and EQUAL, where she continued her work in mentorship and advocacy.

As an Area Health Education Center (AHEC) scholar, Carolina decided to pursue family medicine after completing the AHEC Primary Care Rural Preceptorship Program in Vivian, LA. She was drawn to the versatility, community focus, and holistic approach of the specialty. In choosing a residency, she sought a robust, full-spectrum program rooted in health equity, which she found at Scripps Mercy Chula Vista. She is excited to grow within a program that aligns with her mission of improving healthcare access for underserved communities. After residency, Carolina plans on practicing full-spectrum Family Medicine and has particular interests in sports medicine, palliative medicine, and obstetrics care.

Outside of medicine, Carolina loves spending time with friends and family. New to San Diego, she looks forward to exploring local parks, farmers' markets, and cultural festivals. Some of her hobbies include napping, snacking, playing soccer, lifting weights, dancing, and watching Formula 1 (with the dream of attending a race one day).



Phillip Cathers, MD
He/him/his
Georgetown University School of Medicine

Phillip was born in Phoenix, Arizona, and moved to Boise, Idaho at age two, where he grew up with his older brother and sister. Throughout high school, he enjoyed playing on the varsity baseball team and studying hard, becoming a Presidential Scholar in the process.

Philip completed his undergraduate studies at Stanford University, where he studied biology and received a minor in Spanish. He then attended Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC, where he was a Health Justice Scholar and developed a passion for health advocacy, focusing his efforts on underserved populations.

Having studied Spanish for over a decade, Phillip has enjoyed a medical mission trip to Oaxaca, Mexico (2018), a study abroad in Madrid, Spain (2018), as well as a hospital internship in Quito, Ecuador (2025). He is honored to continue using his Spanish to care for a primarily Latino population in the Scripps Mercy Family Medicine program and hopes to spend his career working in border and global health.

In his free time, Phillip loves playing board games, watching sports (both in-person and on TV), goofing around with his niece and nephews, road biking and reading. He will also never pass up an opportunity to throw a frisbee or baseball.



Diana Medina-Yerena, MD
she/her/ella
University of California, Riverside

Diana Medina-Yerena was born in Monterey, California, and is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrant parents. She was raised in a home filled with family, food, and laughter, an environment that shaped her deep appreciation for community. From a young age, Diana served as a medical interpreter for her family, an experience that opened her eyes to the systemic barriers faced by non-English-speaking patients. This early responsibility sparked her passion for medicine, health equity, and culturally sensitive care.

Diana completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), where she majored in biochemistry. During university, she volunteered as a medical interpreter at a free clinic, developed a literacy improvement program at a family shelter, and participated in border health work with the Flying Samaritans. These formative experiences strengthened her commitment to bridging language and cultural gaps in healthcare.

Diana went on to attend the UCR School of Medicine, becoming the first doctor in her family. Throughout medical school, her identity as a first-generation student and interpreter continued to shape her advocacy and leadership. She led medical workshops in Spanish, presented patient education through the Doctors Corner initiative, and conducted community-based research on complementary and alternative medicine. With a deep belief that knowledge is power, Diana also dedicated herself to education through peer tutoring and STEP exam coaching. Her passion for teaching extends beyond the classroom, and she aims to educate and empower her patients and community through clear, compassionate, and accessible care.

Diana is thrilled to continue her training at Scripps Mercy Chula Vista, where she hopes to become a full-spectrum family medicine physician equipped to serve and uplift the communities that inspired her path. In her free time, she enjoys scrapbooking, indoor cycling, and being a devoted cat mom.



Viviane Cahen, MD, MPH
She/Her
Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)

Viviane was born in Paris, France in a multicultural home, and moved to San Diego during high school. She studied Economics and International Development at Tulane University, including a semester in Ghana, which sparked her passion for global health. After serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA in New Orleans, she completed a post-baccalaureate program at the University of Pennsylvania before earning her MD-MPH at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU).

At OHSU, Viviane served as co-president of the Board of Directors for the Bridges Collaborative Care Clinic, an interdisciplinary student run clinic, providing free healthcare to Portland's housing-insecure population. Her work with marginalized communities and addiction medicine led her to join the Oregon Project Nurture research team, focusing on prenatal and pediatric care for women with substance use disorders.

Viviane is deeply committed to health policy and healthcare equity. As a 2023 Oregon Academy of Family Physicians Policy (AAFP) Scholar, she advocated for reform at the AAFP's Advocacy Summit. She aims to strengthen primary care infrastructure and reduce access barriers for marginalized populations. She is a proud member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society and a Pisacano Scholar and she hopes to complete a rotation at the Robert Graham Center during residency.

Viviane is excited to be training at Scripps Chula Vista, where some of her goals include becoming fluent in Spanish and further developing her passions for full spectrum family medicine with a focus on reproductive health justice.

Outside of medicine, Viviane enjoys reading, writing poetry, reformer Pilates, Rumble Boxing classes, and spending her day off at the beach or at a museum. She's also learning Bachata and Salsa with her co-residents.



Melanie Valentín, MD, MS

she/her/ella

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

Melanie's biggest inspiration is her family. She cherishes her Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage and would not be a doctor without the sacrifices of her parents, grandparents, and ancestors. Her passion for medicine began at a young age, as she witnessed members of her family receive subpar healthcare due to cultural and language barriers. This emboldened her to become the first person in her family to pursue higher education to become the compassionate community medicine doctor her family needed while she was growing up.

Melanie graduated from the University of California San Diego in 2017, with a degree in human biology and health care social issues. She went on to complete a post-baccalaureate program and earned a master's degree in 2019, in applied life sciences at the Keck Graduate Institute. During this time, she found her voice in advocating for underserved communities and began working with the #Health4All campaign to expand Medi-Cal for undocumented community members in California.

Melanie attended medical school at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. She completed her clerkships in Flint, Michigan and Ponce, Puerto Rico, as a part of the Leadership in Medicine for the Underserved program. As a student, she found purpose in using her medical knowledge to promote equity in underserved communities. She collaborated with peers and community partners to plan health fairs that made educational resources and health screenings more accessible for Spanish-speaking patients. She was also chosen as an NIH Research to Reduce Disease Disparities Scholar, to investigate the effects of particulate matter in pollution on cardiovascular disease.

During this time, Melanie also found community, support, and mentorship through the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) and served as the National Health Policy & Advocacy Chair. In this role, she led the organization's annual Student Advocacy, Leadership, Unity and Diversity (SALUD) Policy Summit, which brought together more than 200 medical students to advocate at Capitol Hill for health care workforce diversity, reproductive health justice and increased representation of all ethnic groups in clinical research studies. Her work has been recognized by the American Academy of Medical Colleges and was awarded the Advocacy, Collaboration, and Education Award in 2024. Later that year, she was also inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

In her free time, Melanie enjoys spending time with her family and friends, hiking, practicing Pilates, caring for her plants, dancing Salsa and Bachata, and cooking. She looks forward to working closely with her patients and Scripps family to promote wellness and equity in the Chula Vista community.