

## Scripps Mercy Family Medicine Residents — Class of 2017



### **Cesar Arturo, MD**

University of Illinois College of Medicine-Rockford

Caesar began his journey through medicine with a heavy interest in science at Naperville North High School. He considered the medical field after frequent injuries as a distance runner in track and cross country, which led him to research the pathophysiology of his injuries. Before graduating high school, he visited his parent's country, Ecuador, which set the stage for a lifelong commitment to caring for the underserved.

Later, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as a Molecular and Cellular Biology major, he realized the importance of leadership in medicine and community health. He became President of MAPS Pre-Health club. He traveled to Costa Rica and Peru on medical mission trips with the Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children. While attending the University of Illinois College of Medicine, he continued to further his leadership skills and community outreach as President of LMSA. Upon graduating, Caesar was honored with both the UHP Student Achievement Award and Excellence in Family Medicine Award.



### **Justin Bennink, MD, MBA**

University of California, Irvine – School of Medicine

Justin was born and raised in San Diego and grew up enjoying the sun and outdoors. After graduating high school, he started college at UCSD. After two quarters of struggling academically and being unsure of what he wanted to do in life, he dropped out. He worked for a couple years in construction as an ironworker and later as an ambulance driver (EMT). He eventually decided to return to college to pursue becoming a physician. He earned a B.S. in Biochemistry from UCSD and went on to medical school at UC Irvine (UCI).

In medical school, he had the opportunity to work in a migrant farm worker community in Thermal, Calif. This experience had a profound impact on the way he saw our health care system and inspired him to learn more about underserved Latino communities. He felt fortunate to be accepted into PRIME-LC, which is a program to train medical students to better meet the needs of marginalized and vulnerable Latino patient populations. Throughout medical school, he was also involved in several community health centers and clinics throughout Orange County. Additionally, he was a board member and regular volunteer at UCI's student-run free clinic, as well as a volunteer at the Laguna Beach

Community Clinic. He was also a coordinator for the Health Connectors program at UCI's Family Health Center located in Santa Ana, Calif., which helped connect patients to community resources.

Justin also earned an MBA from the Paul Merage School of Business at UCI, which he plans to use in the future to help in an administrative role at a federally qualified health center.

He is a proud member of the Gold Humanism Foundation and a strong supporter of the Single Payer movement. Justin is passionate about and believes that every human being should have access to health care, regardless of their ability to pay. While he never want to step away from his clinical role, he hopes that he will be able to expand his impact by using his MBA and training from PRIME-LC to take action for the betterment of his patients' community as a health care leader and as a patient advocate.



**Melissa Campos, MD**

Tufts University School of Medicine

Melissa grew up in San Diego. She attended Yale University for college, where she was actively involved in social justice groups, danced Ballet Folklorico and played water polo. Before medical school, Melissa spent two years investigating cocaine addiction at The Scripps Research Institute. She returned to the East Coast to attend Tufts University School of Medicine. There, she was the co-president of the Student National Medical Association and mentored and tutored middle school students in science and public health. In addition, she spent a summer conducting research in Alzheimer's Disease.

Her passions include empowering her patients through education about their health and social justice. She also enjoys staying active doing outdoors, including running and snowboarding.



**Joanna Hernandez, MD, MS**

University of California, Irvine – School of Medicine

Joanna Hernandez is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine's Program in Education for the Latino Community (PRIME-LC) – a dual degree program with the goal of training physician-advocates for underserved Latino communities. She also received a Master's of Science in Global Health at the University of California, San Francisco, where she completed a qualitative, ethnographic study exploring the concept of home among indigenous Mexican families working as farm workers in the Eastern Coachella Valley.

Her interests include migrant farm-working and urban underserved communities, and increasing the diversity of California medical schools to better represent the communities that it consists of. She plans to use the training she has received in medical school and in global health to develop a multidisciplinary approach to medicine to provide comprehensive and quality healthcare to better serve the medically and socially indigent in California.

Her hobbies include painting, exploring new music genres, dancing, and rooting on her local San Diego professional sports teams.



**Shannon Kirby, DO**

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Sharon Kirby was born and raised in Grand Junction, Colo. She graduated from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. She attended the University of Colorado at Boulder where she earned a degree in Spanish Language and Literature and a minor in Biochemistry.

Sharon brings to her training, experience working in community medicine in Colorado and abroad. She spent two years working as a case manager at Clinica Family Health Services, a large FQHC in Denver, Colo. There, she was a member of an integrated behavioral health team, serving the indigent population of Denver. She also worked as a case manager for pregnant and parenting Latina teen moms in Boulder.

Her passion for working with Spanish-speaking, underserved communities began in high school when she volunteered with health programs in Ecuador and Bolivia with Amigos de las Americas. She later became a project director of a Amigos de las Americas program for public health and community development in Paraguay, and coordinated a rabies vaccination campaign in Bolivia. Her clinical interests include community health projects, group visits and maternal-child health.

She also enjoys hiking, backpacking, camping, baking, playing at the beach, and most especially spending time with her wonderful husband and one-year-old son.



**Karen Law, MD**

University of California, San Diego – School of Medicine

Karen was born and raised on Long Island, New York, and attended college at MIT.

Prior to medical school, she taught high school biology and general science in Los Angeles through Teach For America. There, she developed a passion for working with adolescents and underserved communities to improve health, education and promote empowerment.

During medical school she was a manager at the University of California, San Diego's (UCSD) Student-Run Free Clinic, continued educating local middle school and high school students through workshops, and was co-president of UCSD's Family Medicine Interest Group. She spent one month in Ecuador learning Spanish in hopes of better serving her Latino patients.

Karen's clinical interests include adolescent medicine, school-based health, obstetrics and women's health, and family planning.

In her free time she loves spending time with her fiancé and friends, vegetable gardening, and hiking.



**Claire Ojima, MD**

University of Colorado, Denver – School of Medicine

Claire hails from Fort Collins, Colo. After completing a BA in philosophy at Middlebury College in Vermont, she joined the Peace Corps and served as a rural health and sanitation volunteer in Paraguay. There, she developed her public health and tertiary care skills. She then attended the University of Colorado School of Medicine where she was involved in teaching medical Spanish to peers, promoting bystander CPR and basic health knowledge to underserved neighborhoods of Denver, and the global health tract.

Claire is excited to be joining the Scripps Chula Vista Family Medicine Residency Program to continue pursuing her passions: working with underserved populations, global health and speaking Spanish.

Her hobbies include traveling, spending time with her dog, running, skiing, and surfing.



**John Prucha, MD**

University of Colorado, Denver – School of Medicine

Prior to medical school, John spent time working in rural Chiapas, Mexico, with Salud y Desarrollo Comunitario, A.C. and founded Meds for Mexico to raise local awareness and support for the indigenous communities he worked with. It was these experiences that convinced him to pursue a career in medicine and global health.

John completed medical school at the University of Colorado . During that time he was an active member of the Global Health Track, a homeless street clinic, and Partners in Health (PIH). He also served as president of Physicians for Human Rights.

Outside of medicine, John enjoys gardening, traveling, bouldering and learning to surf.