

About the UCLA Blum Center

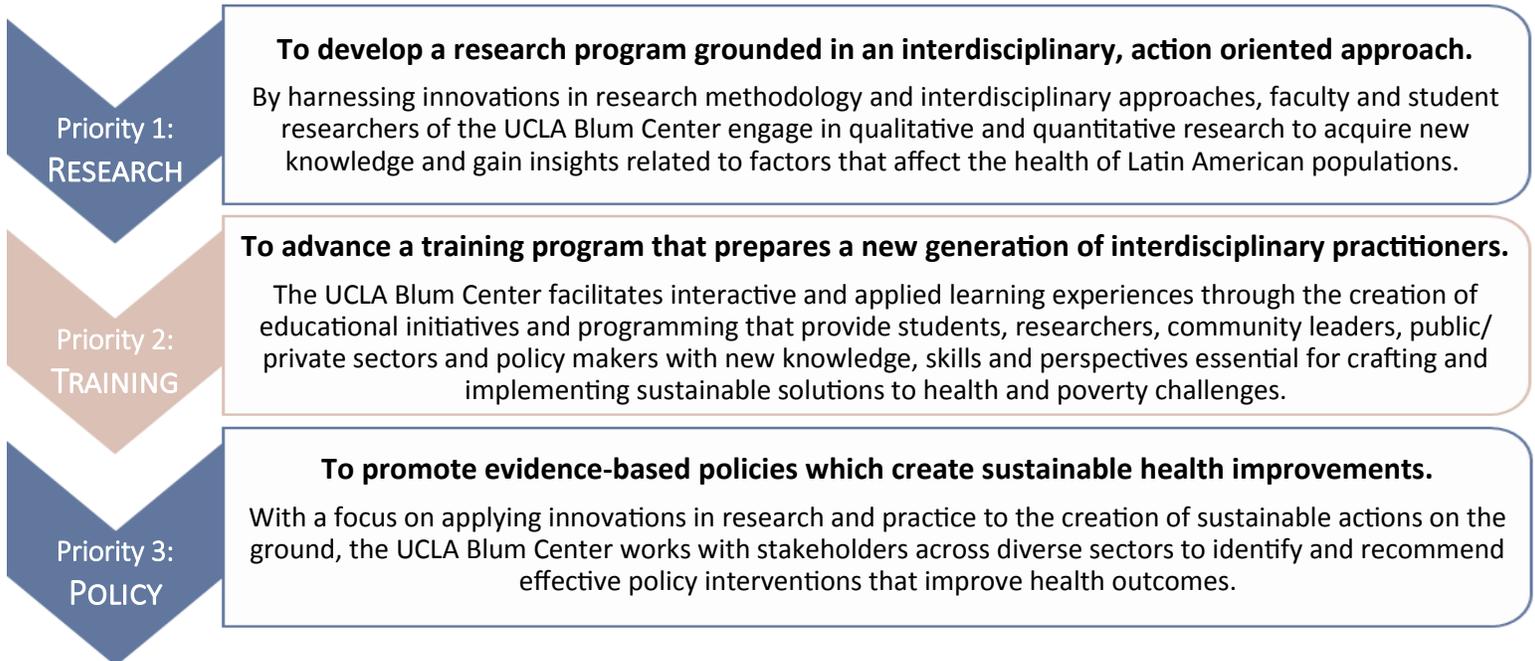
The vision of the UCLA Blum Center is to improve health for Latin American communities. The Center aims to be internationally recognized for its impact on health outcomes through interdisciplinary research, training and policy contributions that drive innovations and promote resilience throughout the Americas.



Mission

The mission of the UCLA Blum Center is to improve the health and well-being of Latin American communities. The Center prioritizes an inclusive approach to provide research that informs policy, programs, and training for the next generation of leaders.

The UCLA Blum Center's mission is achieved through activities and programs that advance our three center priorities: research, training and policy.



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Research and Policy

To develop a health research program grounded in an interdisciplinary, action-oriented approach and promote evidence-based policies which create sustainable health improvements.



Innovative Research Approaches to Inform New Health Interventions

The UCLA Blum Center's research activities have produced new insights on shared values of health, community engagement strategies, multi-sector collaboration and health equity agendas. We bring research to the forefront to inform health policies, programs, and community-based health and poverty interventions in the US and abroad.

Support for Health Education, Systems and Programming

UCLA Blum Center researchers and affiliated faculty work toward designing applied solutions that directly contribute to improved health outcomes for Latin American communities. Our researchers have conducted research and designed projects for diabetes programming in Haiti and have collaborated with partners in Nicaragua to provide research support on workforce strengthening and consultation on the development of medical and PhD-level programs.

Translating Policy into Action

We counsel organizations that seek to translate research and policy into sustainable practice. The Center offers: consultation on implementation and training; policy and program analysis; support for monitoring and evaluation efforts; and advocacy-focused communications strategies.

Refining Policies that Address Social Determinants of Health

We examine policies and their effects on social determinants of health, including workforce needs, political reparations in post-conflict societies, migration laws, access to health services, and more. With this research, policymakers can expand efforts to achieve improved health outcomes.

Publications

Our faculty members are well-known for their scholarly publications and have contributed articles and other materials for publication to journals including *American Journal of Public Health*, *Mexican Journal of Public Health*, *Ethnicity & Disease*, *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, and more.

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Summer Scholars Program

To support student-assisted community responses to health-threatening conditions of poverty and other social determinants of health.



Program Overview

The UCLA Blum Center Summer Scholars Program is a unique opportunity for graduate students to work with Latin American universities, international institutions, governments, and community organizations that are improving the health and social conditions of low-income and vulnerable populations. UCLA faculty members and representatives from host organizations in Latin America provide mentorship for participating students.

Since our 2013 inaugural year, the UCLA Blum Center has placed 13 students in research positions throughout Los Angeles and Latin America. Summer Scholars represent a range of graduate programs including: Public Health, Political Science, Latin American Studies, Social Welfare, and Urban and Regional Planning. Past research projects have addressed diverse topics such as:

- Socioeconomic and political barriers for Peruvian recipients of reparations following the country's civil war
- Decision-making processes for seeking emergency and care options
- Delivery service strengthening for women who have experienced intimate partner violence
- Diagnosis and prevention of adverse birth outcomes

- Social determinants of sexual health and HIV/syphilis rapid tests
- Data collection to inform programs to prevent food-borne diseases
- Risk factors associated with development of liver disease

Past Partners and Sites

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
St. John's Well-Child and Family Center	Los Angeles, CA
Salud Mesoamérica 2015 Initiative	Panama City, Panama
FNE International	Leon, Nicaragua
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua	Leon, Nicaragua
Institute for Mexican Social Security (IMSS)	Cuernavaca, Mexico
Pan American Health Organization	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Cayetano Heredia University	Lima, Peru
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)	Los Angeles, CA

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Training and Education

To advance a training program that prepares a new generation of interdisciplinary practitioners.



Curriculum

By offering the year-long undergraduate course, Poverty and Health in Latin America, we support the growth of future leaders who will serve Latin American populations. The course examines inequities in Latin American countries and communities in an interdisciplinary approach, using a social determinants of health framework. This course is now leading to the development of a Global Health minor at UCLA.

Field Studies

We support students throughout their careers and across disciplines to participate in field studies that address the needs of local communities and contribute to innovative research in Latin American nations. In addition to the UCLA Blum Summer Scholars program, we provide support for students who participate in short-term volunteer trips to assist clinical services in low-resource settings.

Programming

The Center's programming provides educational, networking, and collaborative opportunities for a wide range of audiences working to promote equitable health for Latin American populations. Through events that provide new knowledge and perspectives on health disparities that exist throughout Latin America, the UCLA Blum Center brings together students, faculty, health professionals, governments, policymakers, and non-governmental organizations from throughout the United States and Latin America. Examples of programming include an annual international conference that has provided programming around topics including: strengthening of health systems, capacity building, innovative poverty alleviation strategies, and culturally relevant health interventions.

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UCLA BLUM CENTER
on Poverty and Health
in Latin America

*Working together to promote health equity and
well-being for Latin American communities*



Center Director

Michael Rodriguez, MD, MPH

Dr. Michael Rodriguez is Professor and Vice Chair of Global Health in the Department of Family Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, founding director of the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America, and co-director of the Center of Expertise on Migration and Health of the University of California Global Health Institute. His research activities include ethnic/racial health disparities, immigration, food insecurity, violence prevention, and development of research capacity in low- and middle-income countries.

Dr. Rodriguez has published widely and lectured internationally on the topics of intimate partner violence, medical education, cross-cultural medicine and collaborative development of domestic and international research capacity. He has consulted for the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Institute of Medicine.

Dr. Rodriguez is also a board member for Blue Shield of California, the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, California Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP), where he serves as president of the CAFPF Foundation. Dr. Rodriguez mentors and teaches UCLA faculty and trainees in a wide range of disciplines while also providing health consultation to community organizations. Dr. Rodriguez completed his undergraduate training at the University of California, Berkeley; received his medical degree from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; completed his residency from the UC San Francisco's Family Medicine Residency Program; received his Master of Public Health degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health; and was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at Stanford University.

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