

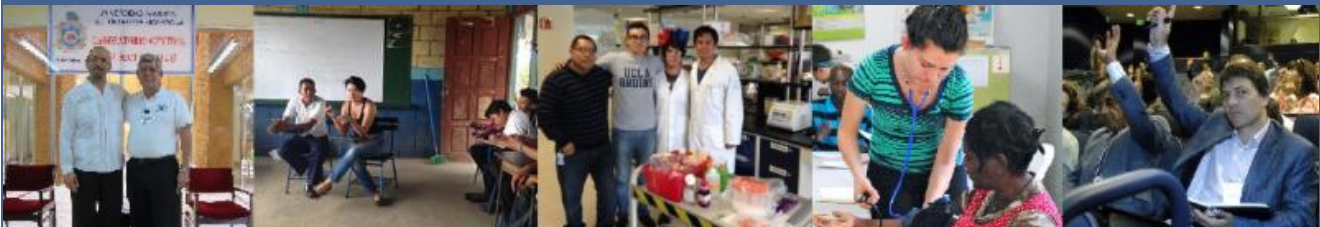


# UCLA BLUM CENTER on Poverty and Health in Latin America

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

Newsletter

August 2015



## Updates from the Field: 2015 UCLA Blum Graduate Summer Scholars

The 2015 UCLA Blum Graduate Summer Scholars are already well into their field studies in Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. Our six Summer Scholars are conducting original research with universities, international institutions or community organizations that are improving the health and social conditions faced by low-income and vulnerable populations in Latin America.



You can follow the work of our 2015 Summer Scholars online. Our website features regular [blog posts](#) from our students in the field. To date, you can read more in-depth accounts of the work of three of our students:

[Edgar Corona, MD '19](#), who is examining different screening and triage strategies for high-risk Human papillomavirus (hrHPV) positive women in México at the [Mexican Institute of Social Security](#) in Cuernavaca, Mexico,

## In This Issue

- [Updates from the field: 2015 UCLA Blum Summer Scholars](#)
- [Expanding Global Networks](#)
- [New Global Health Minor at UCLA](#)
- [10th Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health](#)
- [Welcoming New Staff to the UCLA Blum Center](#)
- [Upcoming Events and Opportunities](#)
- [Our 2015 Summer Scholars in Action](#)

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**MedDreamers Inaugural Fundraiser: A Luncheon & Silent Auction for Undocumented UCLA Medical Students.**

Join MedDreamers at UCLA on Sunday, August 16th from 12PM to 3PM for

[Jose Cuchilla, PhD Sociology '20](#), who is analyzing factors associated with teenage pregnancy and risky behaviors in Central America with the [Salud Mesoamérica 2015 Initiative](#) in Panama City, Panamá and

[Adriana Quiquivix, MURP '16](#), who is examining the impact of urban form on people's mobility patterns in cities across Mexico at [Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas](#)

[Evelyn Sanchez, MSW '16](#), who is supporting the [Child Health Targets Impact Study \(chTIS\)](#), a five-year research collaboration between World Vision International and John Hopkins University that measures the impact of maternal, neonatal and child health and nutrition programs on the health of mothers, babies and children. She is working with [World Vision Guatemala](#).

Upcoming posts will feature the work of our students in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Guatemala by Summer Scholars Mayra Rascón, MPH, PhD '19 Health Policy and Management, Rafaela Rodriguez, MSW '16, and Evelyn Sanchez, MSW '16. You'll find more photos of Summer Scholars in action in this issue and even more in our online [photo album](#) and on our [Facebook page](#).

---

## Expanding Global Networks

Throughout the spring and summer, UCLA Blum Center Director Michael Rodriguez is traveling throughout Latin America and Europe to both advance the Center's research goals and build collaborations with scholars, policy makers, and practitioners focused on social determinants of health.

### Strengthening Health Systems in Central America

In early June, Dr. Rodriguez traveled to Guatemala to meet with members of the [Consejo de Ministros de Salud de Centroamérica y República Dominicana \(COMISCA\)](#). The



UCLA Blum Center along with the UCLA Anderson School of Management are currently exploring potential collaborative opportunities with COMISCA and their partners that will focus on training and health systems strengthening throughout Central America.

### Social Cohesion Project Updates

In June [Dr. Rodriguez traveled to Mexico City](#) to conduct interviews for our current research project, [Social Cohesion in Latin America: Implications for the United States](#). July brought Dr. Rodriguez's travels to Europe, where he has met with various experts on the topic of social cohesion, including funders of social cohesion initiatives and projects and experts in the field. Interviews have been conducted with individuals from the [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's \(OECD\) Social Cohesion Unit](#), the European Union (EU), and the EU's two largest social cohesion initiatives [EUROSociAL](#) and [URB-AL III](#).

the [MedDreamers Inaugural Fundraiser: A Luncheon & Silent Auction for Undocumented UCLA Medical Students](#). Enjoy a delicious lunch at The Glendon Bar & Kitchen, and bid on some great silent auction items!

All ticket sales and donations go directly to a scholarship fund for undocumented medical students at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Tickets: \$50 Early Bird, \$60 Regular

Visit [meddreamers.org](#) to register and contact [info@meddreamers.org](mailto:info@meddreamers.org) with any questions.

## Focus on Health in Latin America

*News and events focused on health and development throughout the Americas*

Cuba becomes the first country in the world to eradicate mother-to-child HIV and syphilis transmission. [World Health Organization](#).

Roughly half of all vulnerable populations in Latin America and the Caribbean work under precarious conditions. [United Nations Development Programme](#).

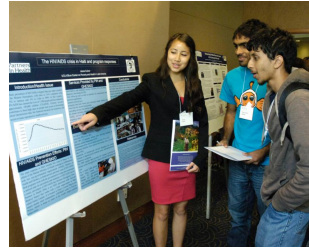
New evidence of progress towards Universal Health Coverage and health equity in Latin America and the Caribbean. [Pan American Health Organization](#).

[Read our latest project update](#) to learn more about our research on social cohesion.

---

## New Global Health Minor at UCLA

Launching in Fall 2015, the new Global Health minor at UCLA will allow students to develop an interdisciplinary understanding of health issues in a global context. Through a broad inventory of courses, the minor in Global Health will provide a solid foundation in, and familiarity with, social determinants of health, epidemiology, environmental health, nutrition, data collection, and evaluation methods.



The new minor is built upon a growing interest at UCLA for global health academic coursework and training, and the foundation in global health education established by the UCLA Blum Center's Poverty and Health in Latin America cluster course. UCLA Blum Center Director Michael Rodriguez, MD, MPH, currently serves as Chair of the Global Health Faculty Committee for 2015-16, and the faculty leadership of the Global Health minor reflects interdisciplinary collaboration across campus: Family Medicine, Health Policy and Management, Political Science, and World Arts and Cultures/Dance.

Students and others interested in selecting the Global Health minor to advance their studies are invited to [visit our website](#) and/or contact Magda Yamamoto, Academic Counselor, at [undergrads@international.ucla.edu](mailto:undergrads@international.ucla.edu).

---

## 10th Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health

In June, the Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health was held in Oakland, CA and organized by the UC Global Health Institute's [Center of Expertise on Migration and Health](#) and [Center of Expertise on](#)



[Women's Health and Empowerment](#), the [Health Initiative of the Americas at UC Berkeley](#), and the [Migration and Health Research Center at UC Davis](#). The event, now in its 10th year, provided a unique opportunity to learn about different health issues that affect mobile populations. International experts led sessions on the relationship between migration and health from the perspectives of public health, public policy, and social sciences. The institute also featured workshops, poster presentations, field trips and social events that nurtured new research and professional networks. To read more about the event and to view presentations and photos, [visit our website](#).

---

## Welcoming New Staff to the UCLA Blum

Climate change poses increasingly catastrophic risk to global health. *The Lancet*.

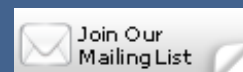
Latin America's middle class grows, but in some regions more than others. *Pew Research Center*.

## Our 2015 Summer Scholars in Action

*Follow the activities of our 2015 UCLA Blum Graduate Summer Scholars on our website, through [blogs](#) and our [photo album](#).*



## Stay in touch with the UCLA Blum Center





# Center

## **Ondine von Ehrenstein, PhD, MPH, MSc** **Associate Director, UCLA Blum Center**



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Ondine von Ehrenstein as the new Associate Director of the UCLA Blum Center. Dr. von Ehrenstein is an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Her specialization is in global reproductive, perinatal and child health, including birth outcomes, neuro-development, autism, cognition, and asthma. Dr. von Ehrenstein's conducts research internationally and in California, and involves large population studies to examine linkages between prenatal and early life environmental, lifestyle and community factors, and reproductive, childhood and population health. The overarching aim of her work is creating population based evidence that can impact policies and translate into community based prevention. Dr. von Ehrenstein will support the development of research and publications, as well as fund development for the Center. We look forward to the contributions Dr. von Ehrenstein will make to the UCLA Blum Center.

## **Juan Espinoza** **Administrative Specialist, UCLA Blum Center**



In June, we welcomed Juan Espinoza to our team as our new Administrative Specialist. Juan has a BA from UCLA in Political Science and a dual minor degree in Spanish and LGBT Studies. In addition to providing critical support for our Center, Juan provides administrative and program support to The UC Global Health Institute's Center of Expertise On Migration and Health (COEMH). Juan has a history with our Center as our former work-study staff, and we are glad to have him back on board as a part of the continued development and growth of our work.

