Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to present the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America Report: Past. Present. Future.

Since 2012, we have emerged from a fledgling organization into a vibrant and forward-thinking Center dedicated to reaching our mission to improve the health and wellbeing of Latin American communities.

As you read through this report, you will find evidence of the bold and on-target work of faculty, researchers, students, and supporters through the years. And, you will notice our renewed energy for a future brimming with potential for increased programming on three tiers: training, research and policy.

Thank you for taking this journey with us. Together, we will train the next generation of researchers to use their expertise for the betterment of Latin American populations, we will turn research into action, and we will develop policy initiatives that bring equity to all Latin American communities.

Warm regards,
Michael A. Rodríguez, MD, MPH
Across Years, Across Borders, Across Disciplines

Since 2012, the UCLA Blum Center has touched many lives and has begun to make progress in addressing the social determinants of health that position communities and populations at-risk of health inequities. Follow us as we walk through time on the next few pages – you will see where we have been and where we would like to go.

UCLA BLUM CENTER
on Poverty and Health in Latin America

July
UCLA Blum Center
mission, goals and
planning underway

June
The Nicaragua Project
– working with Schools
of Medicine in Leon
and Managua to build
research and training
opportunities across
borders

May
Inaugural UCLA
Blum Center Spring
Symposium

Fall
Support of the Inter-
American Development
Bank’s conference:
Innovation in Development

October
First, Do No Harm: The
US Sexually Transmitted
Disease Experiments in
Guatemala. Rodríguez and
García. American Journal
of Public Health. 2013;
103(12): 2122-2126.

Fall 2013, Spring 2014
Freshman Cluster Course
on Poverty and Health in
Latin America begins – Two
semesters, 90 students
enrolled

2012

2013

Fall 2012, Spring 2013
Freshman Cluster Course
on Poverty and Health in
Latin America begins – Two
semesters, 120 students
enrolled

June-August
Summer Scholars Program:
Los Angeles (6) and Latin
American (2) field studies

June
Research program:
human trafficking,
in collaboration with
the London School of
Medicine

June
Partnership, the
Mesoamerica Initiative
2015 – SM2015 Policy
Dialogue Plan

June
Haiti Research and
Service Project
Across Years, Across Borders, Across Disciplines

Winter
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua (UNAN) consultation on workforce strengthening and medical education

April
UCLA on-campus events to create awareness for poverty and health in Latin America

June
Salud Mesoamerica 2015 program collaboration

June-August
Summer Scholars Program: Latin American field studies (6 students in Nicaragua, Peru, Panama, Mexico)

2014

March
Haiti: Students (3) participate in the Dr. Henri Gerard Desgranges Foundation program on diabetes education

May
Second Annual UCLA Blum Center Spring Conference (130 participants)

July
Research published: Civil Rights Laws and Health Disparities

July
Research papers supporting the Culture of Health Initiative: Values and Social Cohesion, Multi-Sector Collaboration, Equity and Quality
Creating conditions to support healthy people:

April
Research released: Creating Conditions to Support Healthy People: State Policies that Affect the Health of Undocumented Immigrants and Their Families

June
10th Annual Summer Institute on Migration and Health

August
Research begins: Impact of Affordable Care Act on Community Health Centers

Fall
UCLA Global Health Minor Introduced

February
Workforce and infrastructure strengthening – COMISCA (Consejo de Ministros de Salud de Centroamérica y República Dominicana)

August
Social Cohesion Laboratory II in Oaxaca and San Luis Potosí, Mexico – UCLA Blum Center appointed to serve as advisor

Fall
Rodríguez appointed faculty advisor for the Office of Residential Life’s Global Health Theme Group

2015

March
Research gets underway for “Evidence-Based Prevention for Youth Risk Behaviors” targeted to youth in Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay

Summer
International Centre for Health Equity – UCLA Blum Center serves in advisory role

September
von Ehrenstein appointed associate director of UCLA Blum Center

September
Central America’s Child Refugees and Families: Human Rights Conference

June-August
Summer Scholars Program: Latin American field studies (6 students in Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala)

October
David Mayer-Foulkes joins the Center as visiting professor from Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), México
Throughout 2015, the UCLA Blum Center worked in many nations toward its goal of improving the health and wellbeing of Latin American communities. We conducted training, research and other programming involving 15 countries in five regions: North America, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Europe.
2015 Highlights

Social Cohesion in Latin America – Implications for the United States. Our research on social cohesion has identified effective strategies that may be replicable in the United States. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this research will support RWJF’s Culture of Health initiative.

UC-Mexico Initiative: Violence Prevention. Center Director Michael Rodríguez and Center staff have begun planning steps to build research efforts that focus on social cohesion as it relates to interpersonal violence in the migrant landscape.

Evidence-Based Prevention for Youth Risk Behaviors (Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay). The UCLA Blum Center, in collaboration with UC San Francisco colleagues, is conducting research designed to guide South American institutions as they build programs to prevent high-risk behaviors among youth - especially in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, youth idleness, violence, and substance use.

Scholarly Publication Underway: Family and Community Health Special Supplement on Immigrant Health. This special issue will feature eight original reports on health status, health care, and the social determinants of health for immigrants to the United States. Center leadership Rodriguez and Wallace serve as guest editors.
Creating conditions to support healthy people: State policies that affect the health of undocumented immigrants and their families

Michael A. Rodríguez
Maria-Elena Young
Steven P. Wallace

The UCLA Blum Center develops and promotes evidence-based policies that create sustainable health improvements. With a focus on applying innovations in research and creating sustainable actions, the UCLA Blum Center works with stakeholders across diverse sectors to identify and recommend effective policy interventions.

2015 Highlights

Report: Creating Conditions to Support Healthy People: State Policies that Affect the Health of Undocumented Immigrants and their Families. Concerned for the wellbeing of undocumented immigrants, the UCLA Blum Center partnered with colleagues to publish this report that found only a handful of states had policies to support the wellbeing of immigrants.

Exploring the Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Community Health Centers. With colleagues from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, the UCLA Blum Center is investigating the impact of the Affordable Care Act on community health centers in states that have the highest rate of uninsured — California, New York, Texas and Georgia.

Child Migrant Health Advocacy. The UCLA Blum Center serves on a national coalition that is mobilizing health professionals to advocate for child migrants arriving from Central America.

Justice for Victims of Forced STD Experiments in Guatemala. In December, a petition for the Guatemalan victims of venereal disease experiments was filed in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Two years earlier, Center Director Rodríguez co-authored an article published in the American Journal of Public Health to create awareness of this human injustice.
2015 UCLA Blum Center: Training

Faculty, post-doctoral, graduate and undergraduate students participated in an array of trainings, coursework and field studies sponsored by the UCLA Blum Center.

6
Summer scholars trained under supervision of 6 faculty mentors at 6 Latin America host universities or organizations

1 thousand
Students, faculty researchers participated in UCLA Blum Center-sponsored trainings

37
Students enrolled in new Global Health Minor

9.9 thousand
Potential number of students reached by UCLA Blum Center on-campus activities

26
Student organizations collaborating with UCLA Blum Center

2015 Highlights

Global Health Minor. UCLA launched its newest academic program in 2015: the Global Health Minor, built upon a growing interest for global health academic coursework on institutional, economic, logistic, legal, social, and artistic challenges facing global health.

2015 UCLA Blum Summer Scholars. In its third year, our scholars completed field studies on topics including: teen pregnancy; maternal and child health care; high-risk HPV screening strategies; food labeling; and the impact of urban form on mobility patterns.

Health Equity and Civil Rights Course. The UCLA Blum Center, along with faculty from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science and The City Project, collaborated to create a course on health equity, civil rights, and health impact assessments.

Medical Observership for the Department of Family Medicine. Facilitated an observership for Dr. Daniela Guevara, a third-year resident from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador School of Medicine.
2016 and Beyond: UCLA Blum Center of the Future

With work begun in 2015, several new programs are expected to emerge during 2016 and will be in operations for the following 2-3 years.

University of California, Office of the President: The Blum Federation

This program will advance research and training among the 9 UC Blum Centers. UCLA Blum Center will take lead on several activities, including: development of a health equity curriculum for undergraduate students; expansion of the UCLA Blum Center Summer Scholars program; efforts to develop the UC Blum Research Action Network.

Center of Expertise on Migration and Health

The UCLA Blum Center is part of a team proposing a four-pronged initiative focusing on: health services; chronic disease; climate and the environment; and violence prevention. When funded, the Center will take the lead on the violence prevention core to produce policy reports, training and educational opportunities for students and junior faculty.

Cross-Border Program with UNAN

The UCLA Blum Center and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua have joined forces for 2016 and beyond with collaborative efforts that will allow for student and faculty exchanges and training along with joint research efforts.

Endowment for the Future

While the future looks bright with these specific programs, the Center witnesses the need for additional funding to support the increasing demand of undergraduate, graduate and other trainees. We are intent on training the next generation of students to become leaders in development, public health and research to improve health and reduce poverty in Latin America.

We seek endowment support to ensure that future generations can make an impact on health inequities and wellbeing of all Latin American populations. With an endowment fund in perpetuity, the UCLA Blum Center will expand its reach into the next generation of scholars, increase its influence among health leaders, and continue to build its reputation as a leading training and research Center dedicated to improved health outcomes and poverty mitigation in Latin America.
UCLA Blum Center

Partners

At the core of our Center’s mission is collaboration and innovation with our partners around the United States and throughout the world.

Through the insights, commitment, energy and spirit of our partners, we achieve our shared vision of improved health for all Latin Americans. We look forward to both continued and new partnerships in 2016.

Founding Contributor
Mr. Richard Blum,
UC Regent

AltaMed Health Services
CBRE Group
Centro De Investigación y Docencia Económicas, A.C. (CIDE)
Charles H. Drew University of Medicine and Science
The City Project
Consejo de Ministros de Salud de Centroamérica y República Dominicana (COMISCA)
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
El Colegio de la Frontera Norte National Institute of Geriatrics (México)
FNE International
Health Initiative of the Americas, Inc.
Dr. Henri Desgranges Foundation
Instituto Mexicano de Seguro Social
Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública
Inter-American Development Bank
Pan American Health Organization
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador School of Medicine
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Salud Mesoamérica 2015
UC Global Health Institute
UC, Office of the President
UCLA, Chancellor’s Office
UCLA Anderson School of Management
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
UCLA International Institute
UCLA School of Nursing
UCLA School of Public Affairs
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua, León