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

UCLA Blum Center Staff

Michael A. Rodríguez, MD, MPH
Founding Director

Ondine S. von Ehrenstein, PhD, MPH, MSC
Associate Director

Billy Norfleet, MA
Supervisor and Program Representative

Alexandra C. Mendoza-Graf, MPP
Project Coordinator

Adrian Lorenzo Arellano
Southern California Coordinator, Center of Expertise on Migration and Health

Student Assistants
Ramon Cervantes-Tadeo, Research
Jessa Culver, Research
Rachel Memoff, Research
Manying Ng, Operations and Administration
Saul Pelayo, Operations and Administration
Pablo F. Simental, Outreach and Events

Steering Committee

Thomas J. Coates, PhD
Director, UCLA Center for World Health

Stephen K. Commins, PhD
Associate Director, Global Public Affairs at UCLA Luskin

Anne M. Dubois, MWC, APR, Fellow PRSA
Partner, Dubois Betourné & Associates, LLC

Adeline Nyamathi, PhD, ANP, FAAN
Associate Dean for International Research and Scholarly Activities, UCLA School of Nursing

Steven P. Wallace, PhD
Associate Director, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

Advisors

Scott L. Waugh, PhD
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Margaret Leal-Sotelo
Assistant Provost

Deborah Miller
Executive Director, Campus Wide Initiatives
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.

July
UCLA Blum Center mission, goals and planning underway

June
UCLA Blum Center established; Rodriguez appointed founding director

May
Inaugural UCLA Blum Center Spring Symposium

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

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

October

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

2012

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

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

2013

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

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:

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

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

**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

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

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

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

**September**
von Ehrenstein appointed associate director of UCLA Blum Center

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

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

**Fall**
UCLA Global Health Minor Introduced

**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

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 Rodriguez co-authored an article published in the American Journal of Public Health to create awareness of this human injustice.
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.

CBRE Shared Advantage Plan

The UCLA Blum Center will conduct research to support CBRE’s effort to become a world-class organization in corporate responsibility. Our research will assist CBRE in building a thoughtfully coordinated program of sustainability and environmental actions.

AltaMed Health Equity Institute

In partnership with AltaMed, the Center will lead an emerging Institute for Health Equity, which is designed to improve the health of the underserved populations while achieving other health benefits.

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