



Feb 2018

UPDATES AND DEVELOPMENTS

LA CASITA OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

What's up, doc?

Online Scheduling

La Casita has launched an online scheduling system to increase patients' access to scheduling their care. The user-friendly interface allows patients to be a click away from their appointment. Check out our website for more information.

Community Outreach

La Casita has partnered up with Shop Healthy Harlem, a NYC Department of Health organization that increases access to healthy foods, to have blood pressure screenings and engage in nutritional discussions. Look out for more community partnerships to get engaged!

Travel Vouchers

Travel vouchers, in the form of a 2-way metro card, are now available to our patients who find hardship traveling to La Casita, thanks to Student Senate and our finance chair.

Steering Committee

La Casita's faculty steering committee continues their dedication to serving the East Harlem community with the student-run clinic. Our steering committee meets on a quarterly basis to create the change that our students want to see and our patients need. Meet our steering committee on page 2.



Niko Kumar, MS2

Niko's dedication has been an integral part of La Casita's current and future success. Over the last several months, he has been working diligently with NetImpact to ascertain the needs of La Casita de la Salud as well determine resources that would be beneficial for the clinic's cause. Through attending numerous meetings, contacting many organizations, and helping with the development of the Strategic Plan, Niko has greatly improved the outlook and future experience of La Casita for all.



Julia Wilkins, MS1

Julia is one of our Community Resources Coordinators. She is extremely responsive and enthusiastic towards La Casita. She is excellent at communicating with the rest of the Community Resources Committee and has created a Facebook page for our Community Resources team. Julia ensures we have someone attending the East Harlem Consortium meetings. She is a great asset to the team.

Meet the Steering Committee

John Pellicone, Chief Medical Officer of Metropolitan Hospital

Nora Bergasa, Chief of Internal Medicine at Metropolitan Hospital

Nadia Duvilare, Chief of Family Medicine at Metropolitan Hospital

Jonna Mercado, La Casita Head Preceptor

Gladys Ayala, Interim Vice Dean NYMC School of Medicine

Andrew Mutnick, Interim Senior Dean of Student Affairs at NYMC

Ofelia Martinez, Faculty Advisor

Catherine Callinan, Fourth year representative

Ariel Kwart, Third year representative

Jennifer Arana-Vasquez, Student Leadership

Roxanna Nahvi, Administrative Director

Bhawneet (Sal) Chadha, Clinical Director



Left to right: Ofelia Martinez MD MPH, Bhawneet (Sal) Chadha MS2, Roxanna Nahvi MS2, Jennifer Arana-Vasquez MS2, Nadia Duvilaire MD, John Pellicone MD



Nora Bergasa, MD



Jonna Mercado, MD



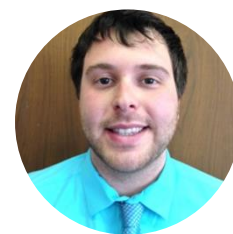
Gladys Ayala, MD



Andrew Mutnick, MD



Catherine Callinan, MS4



Ariel Kwart, MS3

From Mentor to Marvel

Dr. Ofelia Martinez, has managed multiple hats in her tenure in NYMC from: assistant professor of medicine, course director for Foundations of Clinical Medicine II, to medical director of the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center. But one more title should be added: champion of student outreach projects.

Dr. Martinez has gone above and beyond what our foundations of clinical medicine curriculum could require. Almost every student outreach group within our school has had the privilege of calling Dr. Martinez a Faculty Mentor. She has been a pillar and constant source guidance for those of us starting in our roles as patient advocates and community service navigators and volunteers.

In La Casita alone, Dr. Martinez is a precious member of the steering committee, who has helped to guide the student leadership through a time of growth and transition. From mentoring the development of the Strategic Plan to late night emails, evening meetings, and multiple phone conferences, Dr. Martinez has given her free and family time without hesitation and joyfully to her students.

As her students, we humbly thank you. Though we cannot begin to cover how grateful we are for your enthusiastic injections of hope and perseverance in our projects, we wish you the best in your new journey and know that the new institution has earned a diamond among gems.

"Your acts of kindness are iridescent wings of divine love, which linger and continue to lift others long after your sharing."

