

# From Colombia to Community College and Instructor at Harvard: My 22 years Journey to Medicine

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# From Sogamoso, Boyaca...





# My love for medicine



Lucky to have an innate vocation

# My childhood fruit: Uchuva Golden berries



...and from Bogota



# Elementary and Secondary Education



# Community service and Geriatric service





# Music, sports, life and Place to become a Doctora



# Applications and acceptances





# The first Re-start



# English as a second language

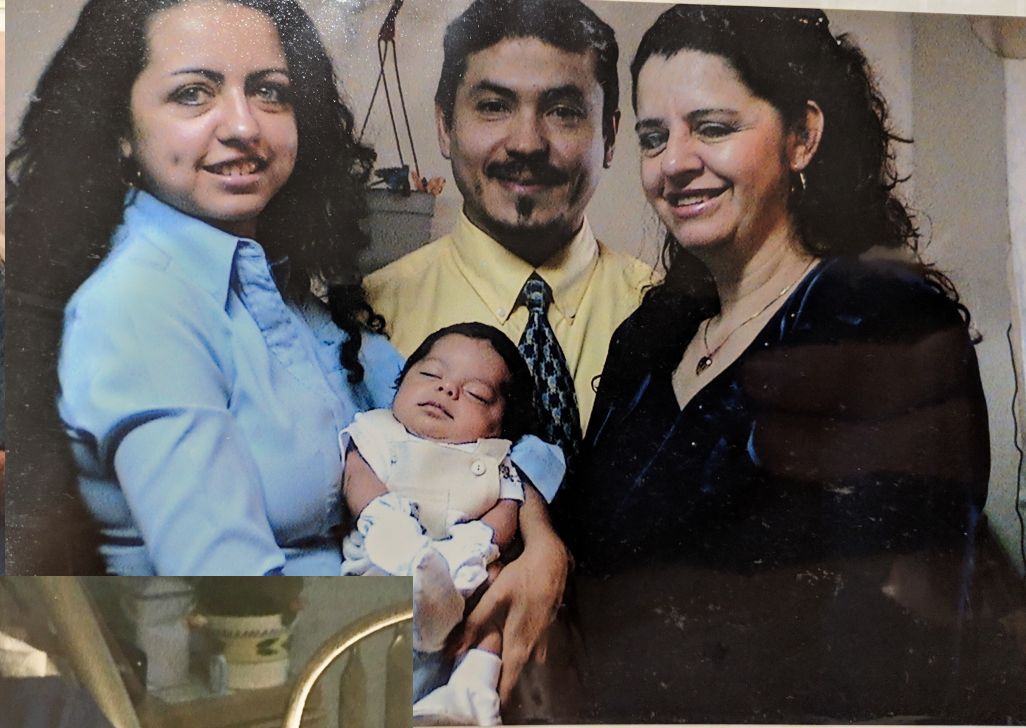


# Work

- Nanny
- House keeping
- Office cleaning
- Then...immigration process
- Immigration consulting and tax preparation



# ...Sacramento, CA



# Eight years later... The Return

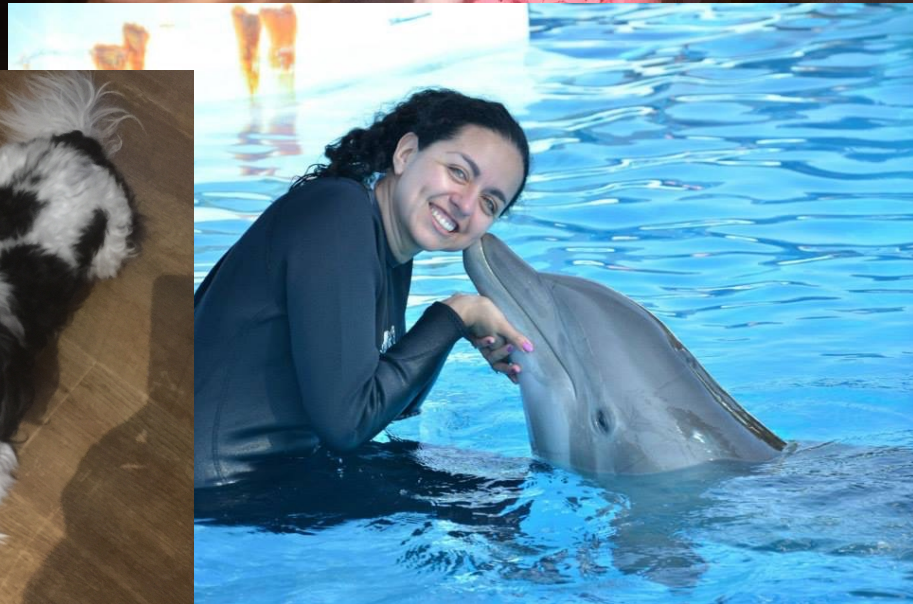






A photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon. The water is dark and reflects the light from the sky. The text "What is Your Why?" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered on the image.

**What is  
Your  
Why?**



One more Re-start  
My beloved  
Los Rios Community Colleges



# Schools in the USA



# Mentors

- Show up
- Show up a lot
- Never alone
- Help each other
- Enjoy the journey





# UC DAVIS DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

## Pre-Medical Surgical Internship & Mentorship Program

**UC DAVIS**  
**HEALTH**

**MEDICAL  
CENTER**

Health Services

Find a Doctor

Refer a

**Interpreting and Translation Services**



Chican@s/Latin@s  
in Health Education  
(C.H.E)



**CLINICA TEPATI**  
SINCE 1974



**THE 12TH ANNUAL UC DAVIS  
PRE-MEDICAL & PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

University of California, Davis



**October 11-12, 2014**



El que tiene salud,  
tiene esperanza;  
y el que tiene  
esperanza lo  
tiene todo

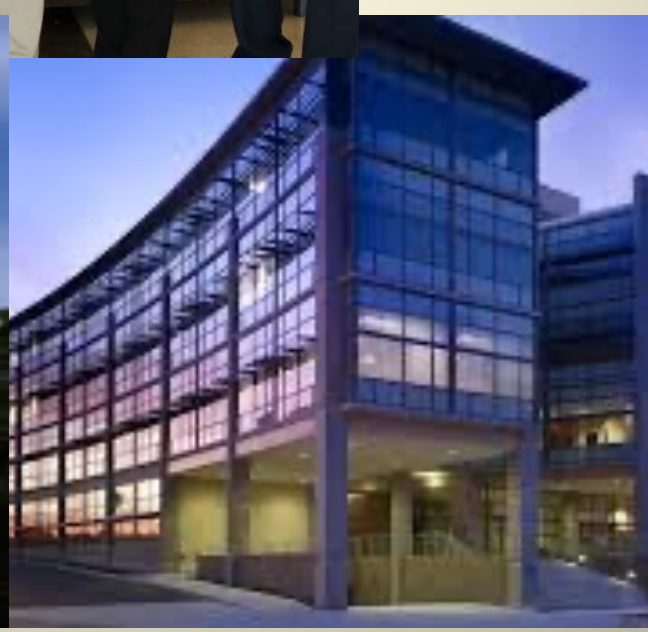


Clinica Tepati • Desde 1974

# UC President Leadership Award and Graduation









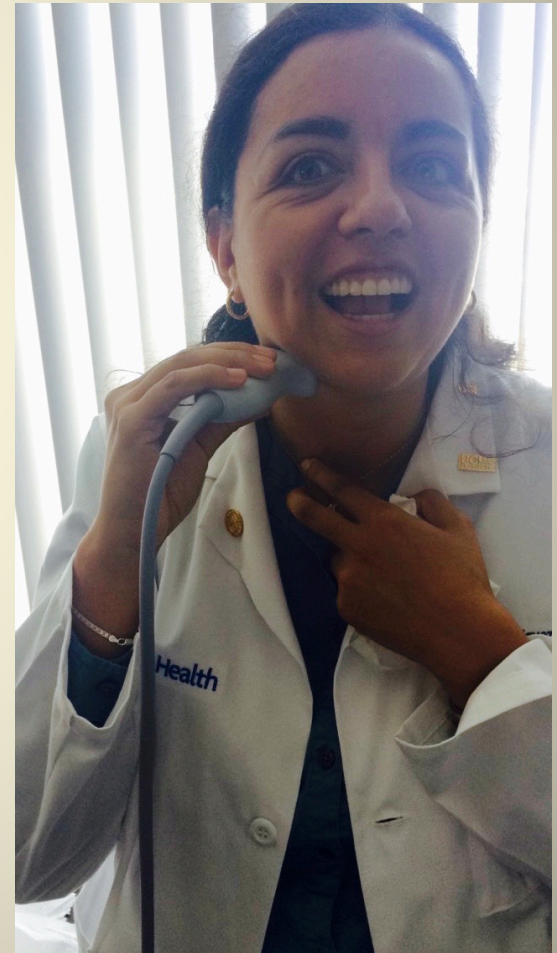
White Coat Ceremony

Welcome Class of 2019!



**UC Irvine Health**  
School of Medicine





# First Summer in Boston 2016



# Boston and ABHR 2017-2019



Neurology. 2018 Jul 3;91(1):e37-e44. doi: 10.1212/WNL.0000000000005729. Epub 2018 Jun 6.

## Hypertension and intracerebral hemorrhage recurrence among white, black, and Hispanic individuals.

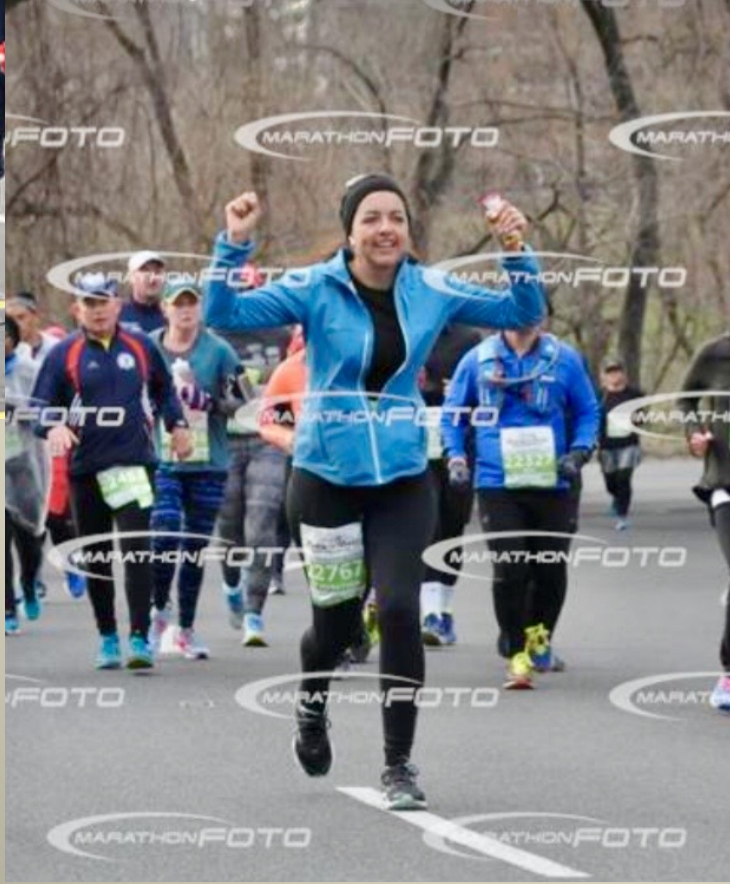
Rodriguez-Torres A<sup>1</sup>, Murphy M<sup>1</sup>, Kourkoulis C<sup>1</sup>, Schwab K<sup>1</sup>, Ayres AM<sup>1</sup>, Moomaw CJ<sup>1</sup>, Young Kwon S<sup>1</sup>, Berthaud JV<sup>1</sup>, Gurol ME<sup>1</sup>, Greenberg SM<sup>1</sup>, Viswanathan A<sup>1</sup>, Anderson CD<sup>1</sup>, Flaherty M<sup>1</sup>, James ML<sup>1</sup>, Birnbaum L<sup>1</sup>, Yong Sung G<sup>1</sup>, Parikh G<sup>1</sup>, Boehme AK<sup>1</sup>, Mayson D<sup>1</sup>, Sheth KN<sup>1</sup>, Kidwell C<sup>1</sup>, Koch S<sup>1</sup>, Frankel M<sup>1</sup>, Langefeld CD<sup>1</sup>, Testai FD<sup>1</sup>, Woo D<sup>1</sup>, Rosand J<sup>1</sup>, Biffi A<sup>2</sup>.

[+ Author information](#)

# Montreal 2018 and Hawaii 2019



# Running in Boston



PHILADELPHIA  
**LOVE  
RUN**  
HALF MARATHON







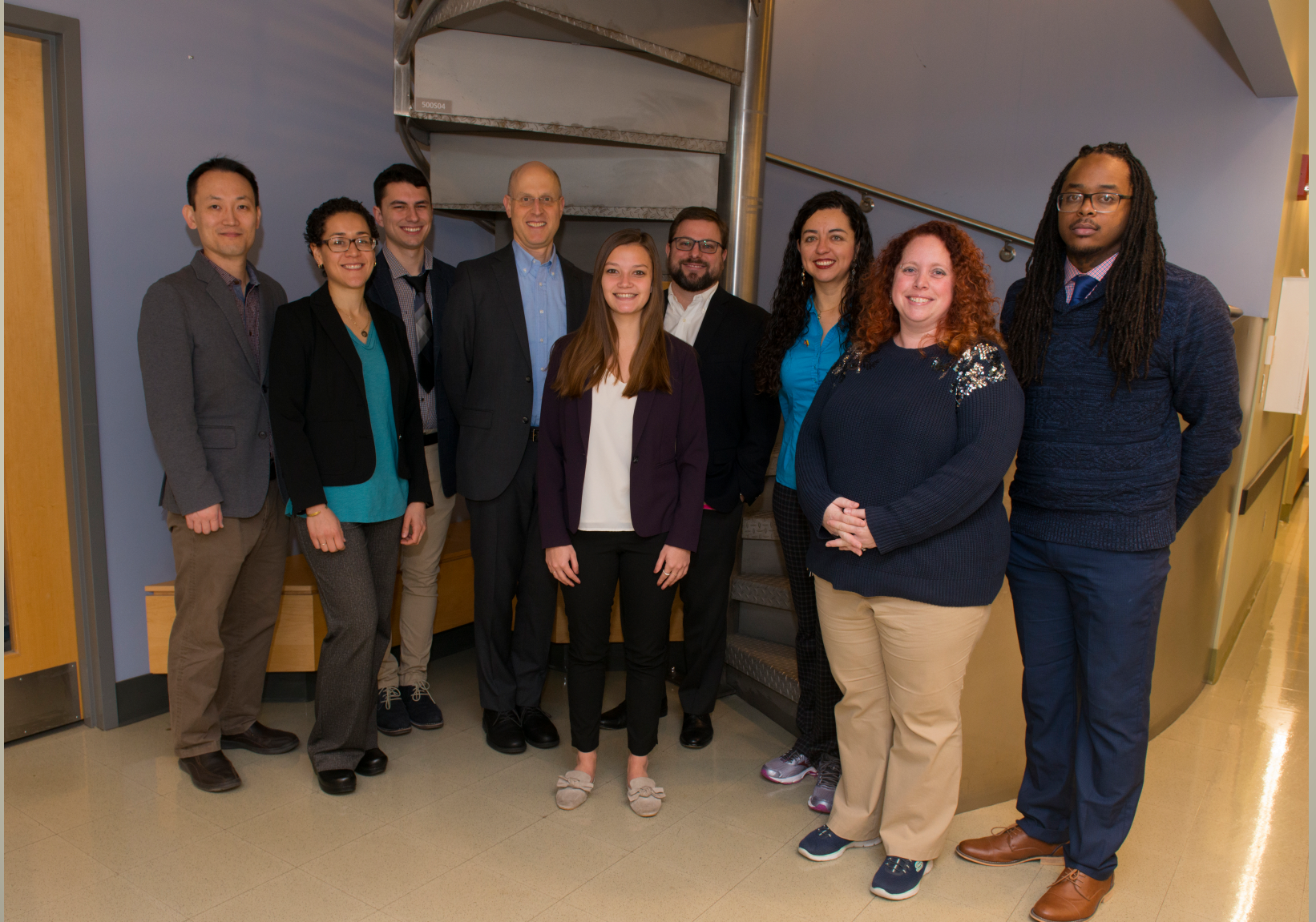
# Projects and 2 more years for MD

- Published: Hypertension and Intracerebral Hemorrhage Recurrence among White, Black and Hispanic Individuals. *Neurology*
- Pending:
  - ICH Survivors Oldest old
  - ICH Survivors and CSVD in minorities: Follow up for first paper

# Dream

- ....NEVER BE AFRAID OF DREAMING BIG!!!!!!
- Therefore...
- I wish to come back to MGH for Residency!!!
- Will work hard for it 😊

THANK YOU ALL 😊





FINALLY clinical years  
Blog for each rotation  
Pandemic

Privileged to see  
my loved ones in  
the midst of a  
pandemic...





# Pandemic victory





# Pandemic victory





**ONE OF MY  
BEST  
MOMENTS  
IN LIFE:**

**22 years  
later**





And more celebration at  
home

# Friends and mentors

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MENTORS AND FRIENDS  
“COLLECTED ALONG THE WAY”

# Left California to join MGH





The day I wore  
my first white  
coat with MD  
after my name,  
and at my  
dream place





I have the privilege of walking by my favorite Charles River after work



And I keep  
collecting sunsets







# Illness

- Worsening gait limitation

# My family's doc

- Delicate field, but sometimes necessary
- BEWARE!!!

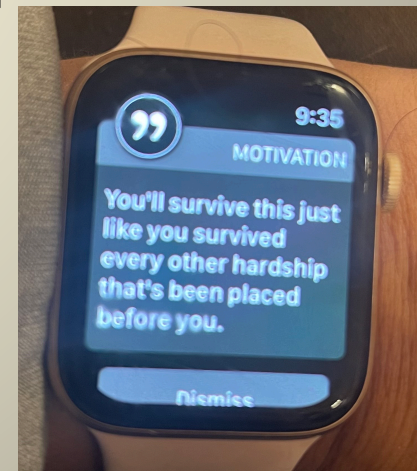









- Problems?
  - Fear?
  - Setbacks?
  - You name it all
  - YOU ARE UNIQUE
  - YOU ARE SPECIAL
  - YOU ALL CAN DO WHAT YOU SET YOUR MIND TO
  - Choose your vocation and then do it WITH LOVE
- Behind every challenge, there is an opportunity peaking its way at you....let it come to you



A person in a dark jacket stands on a sandy beach, looking out at the ocean under a blue sky with light clouds. The scene is monochromatic, with various shades of blue.

"A boat is safe in the harbor.  
But this is not the purpose of a boat"

*Paulo Coelho*

Go conquer  
the world!  
Your  
community  
and loved  
ones await!!!