

Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship

The award recognizes an outstanding junior faculty member who has demonstrated leadership in addressing inequities in medical education and health care; demonstrated efforts in addressing educational, societal, and health care needs of minorities; and is committed to a career in academic medicine. The recipient receives an award and a \$15,000 grant to support his or her academic and professional activities. Funding for the fellowship begins in November of the year the fellowship is awarded, and it can be used over a two year period. The recipient will be required to submit a final narrative and financial reports.



Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa is currently a tenure-track assistant professor of neurosurgery and director of the Brain Tumor Surgery Program at Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital. He has a joint appointment at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center as an assistant professor of oncology.

Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa came to this country in 1987 when he was 19 years old as an illegal migrant farm worker. He had five dollars in his pocket and no English skills. He initially landed in California as a farm worker and then worked as a welder for a railroad company. Within six years, he had learned English and become the first member of his extended family in Mexico to go to college, graduating with high honors from UC Berkeley.

Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa began addressing inequities in health care and education while working full time and going to night school to learn English. He led a program that taught Spanish and English literacy for migrant farm workers in

Stockton, California. He tutored community college students who were struggling with English. During his undergraduate years at UC Berkeley, he was not only the president of the Chicanos and Latinos in Health and Education but also a co-founder of an MCAT workshop, a calculus assistant for the Professional Development Program, a physics workshop leader for the Student Learning Center, and leader for the Hispanic Center of Excellence, University of California, Davis, School of Medicine.

As a medical student at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa helped the Office of Multicultural Affairs coordinate the Hinton-Wright Society and the Summer Biomedical Research Program, and he became a U.S. citizen.

During his neurosurgery residency at the University of California, San Francisco, Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa mentored high school, college, and medical students, and junior residents from underprivileged

backgrounds. Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa lectured on, and published scholarship in clinical neurosurgery as well as in stem cells and brain cancer. He received two NIH grants, one during his residency (F32) and one as a faculty member (K08).

Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins because he wanted to practice in an urban population where he could have a positive impact on underprivileged communities, both by providing top-quality medical care and by serving as a role model and advisor to students. Despite being on the Johns Hopkins faculty for only eight months and undergoing the difficult transition of setting up his clinical practice and laboratory, Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa has already been invited to speak at middle schools the Johns Hopkins Medical School, and Harvard.

Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa runs an NIH-funded laboratory where he studies stem cells in the human brain from intraoperative tissue collected after brain surgery. Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa is developing a neural stem cell translational and clinical research program within

the existing brain tumor program, which will deliver more effective treatments for brain tumors and help regenerate the damaged brain. In addition, Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa directs a brain tumor program at Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital.

In addition to his NIH funding, Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa has received the Johns Hopkins Clinician Scientist Investigator Award, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Young Investigator Award, and the American College of Surgeons Investigator Award. Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa plans to use these grants to provide a summer research stipend for future students from underprivileged backgrounds to join his laboratory. He also plans to send current full-time students in his lab (two African Americans and two Mexican Americans) to the national and international meetings in neuroscience and stem cells.

Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa considers it an honor to care for patients and conduct patient-oriented clinical and translational research. His daily interactions with patients further strengthen his belief that the cure for brain cancer is not

going to be surgery alone but a combination of new technologies, therapeutic interventions, and clinical trials. Dr. Quiñones-Hinojosa realized long ago the great extent to which he depended on the help he received from his mentors in pursuing his dreams of being a physician-scientist. He is thankful for the values his parents and mentors instilled in him-- compassion, service to others, and integrity. He believes these will one day make a change in the lives of his patients and hopes that one day he can have the same impact on future medical and graduate students.

Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarships

These awards consist of five scholarships given to outstanding students entering their third year of medical school who have shown leadership efforts to eliminate inequities in medical education and health care and demonstrated leadership efforts in addressing educational, societal, and health care needs of minorities. Each recipient receives an award and a \$5,000 scholarship in November of the year the scholarships are awarded.



Nehkonti Adams
Eastern Virginia Medical School

After receiving her B.S. in biology from the University of Minnesota-Twin cities, Nehkonti Adams spent two years as a surgical coordinator for an orthopedic practice at the Washington Hospital Center. She is now a third-year medical student at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Nehkonti's interest in assisting underserved populations began shortly after high school when she joined the United States Navy. During her service, which included directing and launching of aircraft and helicopters and firefighting, she saw absolute poverty for the first time in countries like Brazil,

Ecuador, Ghana, and Togo. These experiences solidified her commitment to serve those with limited access to health care.

Before medical school, Nehkonti volunteered as a coach for a youth track team that prepared economically disadvantaged athletes for the Junior Olympics and as a disaster services volunteer for the National Capital Chapter of The American Red Cross. She also taught math and reading to children of Liberian immigrants.

Her commitment to community service continues in medical school. At Eastern Virginia Medical School, Nehkonti serves as chapter co-president of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). She has helped organize a National Primary Care Week that offered glaucoma and blood pressure screening, dysmetabolic syndrome counseling, disaster preparedness, and child health insurance enrollment. She also launched a World AIDS Day and Health Cares About Domestic Violence campaign. Nehkonti also serves as president of the Internal Medicine Club and vice president of the Eastern Virginia Medical School chapter of the

Student National Medical Association (SNMA). She has served the minority population by helping conduct dysmetabolic screenings at health fairs and mentoring undergraduate minority students at Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University and Hampton University. She has headed the Community Outreach Committee and led the EVMS chapter of the Christian Medical and Dental Society.

During her spring breaks, she organized two mission trips to the Dominica Orphanage and School in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic where she distributed donations of shoes, school supplies, clothing, and toothpastes.

Nehkonti hopes to continue her service to the community by practicing internal medicine and sub specializing in infectious disease. She would like to run an AIDS resource center or a community health center that focuses on disease prevention and public health intervention and education in the United States and abroad.



Dora Cristina Castañeda
Stanford University
School of Medicine

Dora Cristina Castañeda is currently a third-year medical student at Stanford University School of Medicine. She graduated cum laude from the University of California, Irvine in 2001 with a B.S. in biological sciences and concentration in neurosciences.

Due to the paucity of Latinas in academic medicine, she is committed to mentoring youth and giving a voice to minority women. She expressed this voice by becoming an anatomy instructor for the Health Career Opportunities Program (HCOP) and the Stanford Medical Youth Science Program (SMYSP), two pipeline programs that mentor low-income students to become physicians.

As a second-year medical student, she was elected president of the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) and Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN). Currently she serves as a medical student representative for the Stanford School of Medicine's National Advisory Council.

She is drawn to the brain's intricate anatomy and over eight years has completed research projects at the University of California, Irvine, Stanford, and the National Institutes of Health to heighten understanding of the human nervous system through studying nicotine addiction and epilepsy. These projects have resulted in publications in the Journal of Neurochemistry, Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and Annals of New York Academy of Sciences.

Intrigued by the complexities of research, she is devoted to improving medicine through basic science, with emphasis on applying her findings to cerebrovascular disease. Her research on a novel stroke therapy in the Department of Neurosurgery under Chief Dr. Gary Steinberg has garnered grants from the American Heart Association, the American Academy of Neurology, and an NIH RO1 supplement for a manuscript under review at The Journal of Neuroscience.

Dora is proud to be the daughter of Mexican immigrants and the first one in her family to pursue a professional degree. As an academic neuroscientist and neurosurgeon, she hopes to mold a basic science and public health approach to cerebrovascular research with direct applications to the health of medically underserved populations, especially in stroke treatment and prevention.



Luis Isaac Garcia
New York University
School of Medicine

Luis Isaac Garcia is a third-year medical student at New York University School of Medicine (NYUSOM). He graduated cum laude from Wagner College with a B.S. in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies. He was awarded the PA student of the year award and was admitted to the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society.

After graduation, Luis spent four years in Brooklyn, practicing in the field of cardiology with much of his work focused on patients with severe heart disease and implantable cardiac devices. To strengthen the relationship between the patients and the health care team, he coordinated the Heart Menders support group.

Luis has served as co-chapter president for the NYUSOM Black and Latino Student Association (BALSA). In this capacity, he served as both the NYUSOM National Boricua Latino Health Organization and Student National Medical Association co-chapter president. As a contributing member of the "Bridging the Gap" program, Luis has mentored underrepresented undergraduates and has lectured at New York University on "Alternative Routes to Medical School."

As a teacher for the BALSA-founded Pediatric Obesity Program at Norman Thomas High School and the Salk School of Science, Luis has not only generated curricula about healthy living but also has served as a role model to many of the schools' minority students.

In 2005, he became the first student member of the Advisory Committee for the NYUSOM 4th Annual Latino Health Conference, "Social Justice and Latino Health." He moderated a workshop on how to increase the population of underrepresented minority health care providers and received the NYUSOM Latino Student Leadership award.

To promote healthy living and education, the Conference Committee, BALSAs students, and many members of the NYSOM community joined together to March for Social Justice during the 10th Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City. During the march, thousands of pieces of health care education material were distributed to the crowds.

Luis is pursuing cardiovascular research at NYUSOM. During his first year, he participated in the Honor's Program, conducting cardiovascular research with Dr. Glenn I. Fishman, Chief of Cardiology at NYU Medical Center. He received a 2005 Glorney-Raisbeck Medical Student Grant from the New York Academy of Medicine.

Luis intends to pursue a career in cardiology and continue to mentor, educate, and work towards the improvement of the health care for the underserved, both in the examining room and in the community.



AeuMuro Gashaw Lake
University of Kentucky
College of Medicine

AeuMuro Gashaw Lake is a medical student at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. She studied sociology at Spelman College, graduating summa cum laude. Although her undergraduate experience at Spelman shaped many of her professional goals, it has been her growing love of people and the experience of being a part of positive change within her community that has fueled her motivation to pursue a career in medicine.

While at Spelman College, AeuMuro learned about how racism, sexism, and classism are linked. From texts by authors such as Paulo Freire and Jonathan Kozol, to her work as a tutor at a local community center in Atlanta, Georgia, it became increasingly apparent to AeuMuro that her part in undoing these injustices would be to empower others through education.

By recruiting and mentoring minorities in medical education, she hopes to contribute to a health care system and society that is responsive to the needs of underrepresented minorities. As president of the Student National Medical Association, AeuMuro, along with other members, established mentoring relationships with minority undergraduate students interested in health science careers in the central Kentucky region.

Throughout AeuMuro's education, she has integrated her passion for writing into her goal of eliminating disparities. Currently, AeuMuro is developing a proposal to fund a student-led video project documenting the experiences of minority health professions students at her institution.

Just as AeuMuro is dedicated to combating societal disparities within the United States, she also values understanding the United States within the context of the entire world. She appreciates international travel for the commonalities and differences that it brings to one's attention. AeuMuro, along with faculty from the Medical University of the Americas and the University of Kentucky, is establishing a surgical elective in the Caribbean where students from her school can become more aware of the practice of medicine in the Caribbean and, comparatively, the United States.

In the future, AeuMuro plans to practice medicine internationally, learning from the values of the community in which she serves and providing medical care that is tailored to each individual's cultural perspective. She looks forward to being an active member of the global community that will disentangle health from the web of obstacles that have prevented generations of minorities from the ease and progress derived from good health.



**Katherine Leila
Neuhausen**

Emory University
School of Medicine

Kate Leila Neuhausen received her B.A. from the University of Virginia in interdisciplinary women's health, having minored in Latin American Studies. She is currently a third-year medical student and Robert W. Woodruff Fellow at Emory University School of Medicine.

Kate conducted her undergraduate thesis research on childbirth and midwifery in a rural coastal village in Ecuador. Upon observing the consequences of inadequate access to health care and poverty, she dedicated her career to medicine and serving impoverished communities.

Back in the United States, she worked with teams of health care providers, immigration attorneys, and community health promoters to organize the first Spanish-language

workshops on HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, and sexual assault prevention for the Charlottesville immigrant community. She became committed to using patient education, health literacy workshops, and community health promoter programs to empower immigrant communities to improve their health through preventive medicine.

After college, Kate researched connections between sexual assault, poverty, and HIV/AIDS at a rape trauma center in rural South Africa. She initiated a sustainable program for a forensic nursing educational exchange between the University of Virginia, Tshilidzini Hospital, and a South African nursing school. She worked as an International Health Intern at the University of Virginia International Family Medicine Clinic. She has also worked in rural Guatemala on a medicinal plant encyclopedia and with Honduras Outreach to investigate opportunities for sustainable community health education and public health projects.

Kate was president of Emory's Physicians for Human Rights chapter. As an organizer of R.E.A.C.H. (Rewarding and Encouraging Aspirations in Community Health), she helped lead an initiative that supports medical students interested in pursuing community health research. She worked with Emory family medicine

faculty to design a cross-cultural medicine elective for medical students and volunteered with a prenatal care group for Spanish-speaking pregnant women. Kate also helped create Health Professionals for a Healthy Georgia—an advocacy organization of over 250 health professionals and students—that successfully campaigned to exempt health care from legislation designed to limit immigrants' access to public services.

She plans to continue to advocate for access to health care and expand medical and public health programs for underserved and minority populations. She intends to incorporate educational and political tools to ensure that our health care system and our society address the health needs of the most disadvantaged and marginalized in our communities.