

Meet Eduardo Fricovsky, Pharm.D. . . .

Eduardo Fricovsky was not interested in science or a health career as a child. This changed when he was in high school and participated in the Consortium of High School/Undergraduate and Medical Schools (CHUM), a Title VII funded Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) through the University of California San Diego (UCSD). CHUM is a science outreach program for high school students, which not only gave Eduardo the love for science that would shape his future, but helped him to be accepted at UCSD. Once at UCSD, Eduardo participated in the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE), which provided him with tutoring, book scholarships, mentoring, workshops and seminars, research opportunities, and assisted him in his preparation for pharmacy school. Eduardo decided to pursue pharmacy because he was intrigued by how medications work and their impact on the human body. Additionally, he felt a strong desire to give back to his community, and knew he could do that as a pharmacist. Eduardo is currently a postdoctoral research fellow, working on an NIH training grant. He also volunteers his time at local free clinics, helping to dispense medication and educate patients about their medication.



“I have always had a strong desire to give back to the community. Thanks to HCOP and HCOE, which led me to a career in pharmacy, I am better equipped to impact my community in a very positive way.”

About the Program

- HCOP and COE are authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Together, they function to increase the representation of minority and disadvantaged students in the health professions.
- The UCSD CHUM program provides science outreach to pre-college students, focusing on underrepresented minorities and disadvantaged students. Additionally, the CHUM program helps students apply to college.
- The UCSD HCOE supports the development of scientific knowledge and research skills of Hispanic students so that they may be trained in the health professions, helping to increase the number of Hispanic health professionals. The HCOE helps students apply to health professions schools, and provides support and research opportunities to students.
- For more information on the UCSD HCOE, please go to: <http://meded.ucsd.edu/HCOE/index.html>. For more information on CHUM, please go to: <http://chum.ucsd.edu>.

The Effect of Funding Cuts . . .

- If the CHUM program were to be eliminated, less underrepresented minorities and disadvantaged students would get early exposure to strong science programs, which are often the catalyst for them in going to college and pursuing health professions programs.
- Without the HCOE program, Hispanic students would not receive the high level of support and assistance that is provided for them under this program. The loss of such assistance would likely lead to an even smaller number of Hispanic students entering health professions schools.
- With the loss of either of both of these programs, the future of younger generations of underrepresented health professionals is at stake, and overall, their communities will suffer.



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