

Meet Henry Ferreyra, MD . . .

Henry Ferreyra realized in college that becoming a physician would best allow him to use his intellect, scientific curiosity, and compassion to help others. To help achieve this dream, Dr. Ferreyra participated in the Post-Baccalaureate Program at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine. This program gave Dr. Ferreyra additional tools that he needed to be accepted into and excel in medical school. While he was a medical student, Dr. Ferreyra took advantage of opportunities presented to him as a part of the UCSD Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE). Through the HCOE, he was provided with research opportunities and the chance to work with underrepresented students from elementary to high school in outreach programs, both of which added to his educational experience. Dr. Ferreyra is now an Ophthalmologist who specializes in retinas. As an Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at UCSD and the VA Hospital in San Diego, Dr. Ferreyra serves underserved patients and is still actively involved in the Post-Baccalaureate Program as a physician mentor.



“My own experiences have taught me that it is not the destination, but the path that we take that defines us. I became a better physician because of my experiences with HCOP and HCOE.”

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 Post-Baccalaureate Program provides academic and emotional support to students who have demonstrated a commitment to practicing in medically underserved areas. The program provides them with additional science based coursework and exposure to introductory clinical skills.
- The UCSD HCOE supports the development of scientific knowledge and research skills of Hispanic students so that they may successfully complete health professionals training, increasing the number of Hispanic health professionals and Hispanic health professions faculty.
- For more information on the UCSD HCOE, please go to: <http://meded.ucsd.edu/HCOE/index.html>. For more information on the UCSD Post-Baccalaureate Program, please go to: <http://meded.ucsd.edu/asa/dcp/postbac/>.

The Effect of Funding Cuts . . .

- If funding for the HCOP Post-Baccalaureate program is lost, many qualified applicants will never get a chance to become physicians and help their communities.
- Because the HCOE and Post-Baccalaureate Program students work with and mentor minority students from elementary through high school, loss of funding for the programs would result not just in less minority medical students in the short term, but it would add to the broken pipeline.
- The HCOE also helps build the medical research pipeline by giving students the opportunity to assist in research. Without the program, this opportunity to strengthen the pipeline would be lost.



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