



ALLIANCE NEWS

December in Full Swing

One thing can be counted on when your sole mission is to support the physician community, things



change in the blink of an eye. Just a few short days ago we thought we were planning a couple of events for December. The dates were set. The only thing to do was sort out the personal details and to show up. Boy were we wrong. Not to worry though, we're hard at work tackling the changes, though we do apologize for any hiccups this might cause our members who plan their lives meticulously.

After nearly two years apart it's wonderful to have celebrations to look forward to with our LACMAA friends!

That said, if ever there was a time where a blessing has been in disguise, this is it! A couple of events we had scheduled had to be rescheduled, but happily that gave us more time to plan. Insert a huge sigh of relief here.

Firstly, with thanks to Debbi Ricks and Ting Kurihara, we have our Annual Holiday Luncheon scheduled for December 1 at the DTLA Jonathan Club. Won't it be wonderful to see the friends most of us haven't seen since the pandemic first knocked us all off balance? Please plan to join us! The invitation is attached, but also went out via email and snail mail several days ago. We cannot wait to see everyone in their holiday best toasting to what we hope will be a very welcomed reunion.

The Physician Family In-training Recognition Award Luncheon is going to be held on December the 9, 2021 at the Jonathan Beach Club. Please join us in honoring a very special family this year.



An LA County Costco pharmacist receives a box of Shot Blockers continuing our goal of getting LA Vaccinated in 2021!

And last but certainly not least, Clínica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero, requested we postpone the vaccination event originally scheduled on 12/4 for just a couple of weeks. Full disclosure, our team and partners let out a heavy exhale after getting a couple of extra weeks to plan. The extra planning time and altered location has proven to be the gift that keeps on giving.

Instead we're now coordinating an event for their MacArthur Park Neighborhood clinic, a traditionally very underserved community of people. Incidentally we've come to learn the MacArthur Park Neighborhood has some of the lowest vaccination rates in LA County. With the generous support of our partners at the clinic, Bionix, and of course CMAA we're designing an event that we hope profoundly impacts the predominantly Latinx Community members that reside in the

Los Angeles County has a lot to be thankful for this year!



(Top) Join us for our in-person holiday events this month!

(Middle) Dr. Kwaku Oppong explains the Bionix Shot Blocker to a local Costco pharmacist before donating a box on behalf of LACMAA.

(Bottom) The Sanchez Parra back "home" in Mexico over the Thanksgiving holiday to celebrate Zubi's 12th birthday.

surrounding area.

Melissa Parra and Stacie Oppong had the privilege of touring the Marengo Street clinic a couple of weeks ago. They were impressed by the warmth and kindness the clinic staff demonstrated, when taking time out of their busy day to welcome them in, provide a tour of the beautiful facilities, and to answer their questions in great detail. The work they're doing is invaluable to our community!

The ladies were so impressed to learn that the clinic provides free showers to the homeless community on Fridays. Each person is provided with portable shower facilities, personal care items, clean clothing, and a delicious meal prepared by volunteers. Furthermore, there is an urban garden area where fruits and herbs were growing and a full service clinic whereby insurance and immigration status is not taken into consideration when patients need care. With that work in mind, Melissa and Stacie were more inspired than ever to create an event that compliments the work of Dr. Don Garcia, Stephanie Lemus (Director of Public Policy and Community Affairs), and their entire team.



[Melissa, Zubi, & Zeke recent trip "home" to Mexico inspires and motivates them to give back within their own](#)

As a child of immigrants, having arrived in the US just days before her birth, Melissa is passionate about the needs of the Latinx community. Melissa and her family (Dr. Alejandro Sanchez, 12 year old Zubi, and eight year old Zeke) will be spearheading several events in the future that will target and highlight the needs of the traditionally underserved Latinx population within LA County. Even Dr. Sanchez himself has

experienced difficulties firsthand of being a Latino physician within LA County, even with consideration to the progressive culture and political climate that California, Los Angeles in particular, is known for. His story is one we hope to share widely once his busy schedule as Chief of Infectious Disease at Keiser West LA affords him to do so. As her professional colleagues, we stand in solidarity with Melissa and offer our full support to her with this important work.

It's clear that Dr. Garcia's team at Clínica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero is invaluable to our LA County healthcare community and we're eternally thankful to everyone there for allowing us the privilege of partnering alongside them. We are humbled. The holiday themed event on December 18 will be coupled with the clinic's annual holiday toy giveaway. What a privilege for us!



[Dr. Sanchez \(seen here in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic\) has faced many challenges as a Latino physician in LA County.](#)

Please contact Melissa Parra or Stacie Oppong to learn more about the upcoming vaccination event. We need support, both financial and hands-on volunteers, to help us make this dream a reality. We ask our members to help in whatever way possible. Also, please feel free to reach out for information about how to best support Dr. Garcia's team at Clínica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero as they continue working toward providing quality healthcare and services to all members of our beloved community.

Together we can get LA County Vaccinated in 2021!

LACMAA Holiday Physician Family In-training Recognition Award

We all know the financial struggles of medical school and residency, especially for those with children. The LACMA Alliance is looking for a very special medical school or resident in-training family to help this holiday season.

Requirements for application:

- 1) Must be members of the LACMA Alliance.**
- 2) Must have at least one dependent.**
- 3) Must demonstrate financial hardships by living in LA County.**
- 4) Must be willing to share their story and family photo upon being granted the assistance for publication within our newsletter and other media outlets.**
- 5) Must have a family representative at our Physician Family In-training Award Recognition Luncheon on December 9, 2021 from**

11:00-2:00 PM in order to be recognized. The holiday luncheon date will be announced in the coming days.

To apply, please complete the following application and submit to Stacie Oppong at lacmaalliance.stacieoppong@gmail.com by November 30, 2021.

Application for LACMAA Physician Family In-training Recognition Award

- 1) Share your family's medical journey story.**
- 2) How does living in Los Angeles County create unique challenges to medical students and/or residency families from your perspective?**
- 3) Tell us what your specialty is, what program you're affiliated with, your cost of living, how many dependents you have, and additional hardships your family has experienced, which has made your journey financially and emotionally challenging.**
- 4) Any additional burdens your family would like us to know.**

***Additional pages may be attached if necessary**



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ALLIANCE

*Physician Families Helping to Build
Healthy Communities in Los Angeles County*

Plan to Attend!

Happy Holidays from all of us at the LACMAA! We wish you all a happy and healthy season filled with family, friends, and love. If you have no plans for the holidays please let us know. We'd love the opportunity to include you in our own holiday traditions. Nobody has to be lonely when you have a community of people supporting you!

12/1 Renew your membership to LACMAA today (application below)

12/1 Annual Holiday Luncheon at DTLA Jonathan Club

12/9 Physician Family In-training Recognition Award Luncheon at Jonathan Beach Club

12/18 MacArthur Park Neighborhood Vaccination Event

**Please note changes in this previously scheduled community education, health, & wellness event*

12/20 Deadline for articles and dates for the January Alliance Newsletter.

12/22 - 1/3 Board members on winter break. Please allow longer than typical response times to inquiries.

Renew Your LACMAA Membership Today



Los Angeles County Medical Association Alliance

...Physician Families Making a Difference in the Health of Los Angeles County Since 1929

Annual Membership Dues January-December 2022

Membership Categories

- **Member:** Physician or spouse/partner of a physician
- **Sustaining Member:** Retired physician or spouse/partner of a retired or deceased physician (Reduced dues)
- **Charter Member:** 35-year member (Reduced dues)
- **In-Training:** Medical student, resident, fellow, or spouse/partner of a medical student, resident or fellow. (First year free)
- * **LACMA Physician Member:** A LACMA member in active practice

Alliance Membership Information

Name _____ Spouse/Partner _____
 Address _____
 Street _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
 Contact Phone _____ Email _____
 Your Profession/Specialty _____ Spouse Profession/Specialty _____

*Member.....\$ 80.00 LACMA Physician Member.....\$ 50.00
 *Charter Member.....\$ 50.00 *Sustaining Member.....\$ 50.00
 *In-Training (First Year Free) \$ 00.00 *In-Training.....\$ 10.00

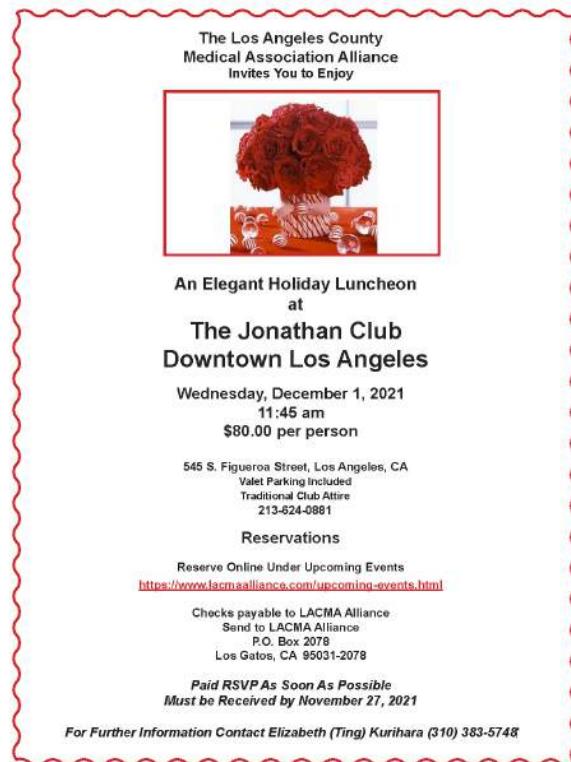
Contribution to Alliance Projects.....\$ _____
 My check is enclosed payable to LACMA Alliance. Total \$ _____
 I am paying securely online: <https://www.lacmaalliance.com/join-us.html>

* **State Membership:** *The above membership levels include your membership to the California Medical Association Alliance.*

Mailing Address:
 Los Angeles County Medical Association Alliance
 P.O. Box 2078, Los Gatos, CA 95031-2078
 Phone: 213-683-9900

LACMA Alliance is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Tax ID # 86-1980093
 Your Dues and Donations May be Tax Deductible

Please Join Us!



**Please Join Us In Honoring A
Very Special
LA County Physician Family**

To make your charitable donations please visit LACMA Alliance website and together we can change the lives of an LA County family in some small way.

December 9, 2021
11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Jonathan Beach Club
850 Palisades Beach Road
Santa Monica, CA 90403

"My goal is to assist people in the process of rapidly achieving their goals so they are able to live the life of their dreams. My hope is that they will eventually pay-it-forward and help those that they care about do the same."
-Tairik Robine

"Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person's life."
-Jackie Chan

Physician Family In-training Recognition Award



Help LA County beat COVID-19

Los Angeles County Medical Association Alliance
In partnership presents a
Community Vaccination Event

Please join us for a community vaccination event!

Come for your vaccinations and stay for the food trucks, entertainment, giveaways and fun!

Everyone is welcome regardless of insurance and immigration status.

**All I want
For
Christmas
is a
vaccine**

With special thanks to our partners and donors for making this very special event possible!








December 18, 2021

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Clínica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero

123 S Alvarado Street Los Angeles, CA 90057

Western States Regional Meeting

February 10-13, 2022
Westgate Hotel in San Diego, California

“A Weekend of Connection & Collaboration”

Hosted by the
**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION ALLIANCE**

www.cmaalliancenet.org/western-states-regional-meeting-2022

OUR WESTERN STATES PARTNERS








Get Active in LACMA Alliance

We need you to help us make the future more fun. The board is hard at work, but we need others to help out. Please reach out to us and become an active planning committee member. Let's make 2022 our big comeback year!

LACMAA Board

Ting Kurihara- 310-383-5748



LACMAA President



Melissa Parra - 619-888-4837

Board member Melissa alongside her two children, Zubi and Zeke.



Stacie Oppong - 626-773-0030

Board member Stacie in Long Beach alongside her thirteen year old twins, Barron & Carver.

Please reach out to us with any questions or to become active within your community. We can't wait to meet new friends and reunite with old ones, it's been way too long!

