

Summer 2022 Quarterly Newsletter

This Issue Includes:

Center News

- Mr. Ernesto Sosa joins Center as Director of Community Programs
- Dr. Fola May funded to conduct new colorectal cancer study

National Immunization Awareness Month

- Highlight on HPV Vaccination

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A Message from our Leadership Team:

We hope that the summer provided each of you with an opportunity to relax and recharge. As we look ahead toward the fall, we are excited for the many opportunities we will have to work together to improve health across the communities and populations that we serve, through both our outreach/engagement activities and our research projects.

At this time, we are thrilled to introduce our new Director of Community Programs, Mr. Ernesto Sosa. Mr. Sosa joined our team this month and is eager to begin connecting with our many amazing partners. Please read on to learn more about him and feel free to reach out and introduce yourself and your organization.

We are also pleased to share news of an exciting new colorectal cancer research project, led by Center Associate Director, Dr. Folasade (Fola) May. This 5-year study, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI), will examine the effectiveness of an intervention with the potential to improve healthcare delivery for individuals at elevated risk for colorectal cancer.

Additionally, given August is National Immunization Awareness month, we are pleased to share important vaccination information and resources.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy Labor Day weekend!

With gratitude,
Roshan Bastani, Beth Glenn, Alison Herrmann and Folasade May

Center News

Welcome Director of Community Programs Ernesto Sosa

We are delighted to announce that Ernesto Sosa will be joining our team as the Director of Community Programs. Ernesto graduated from the University of Washington with a Masters of Social Work and Masters of Public Health. Since then, his work has focused on health disparities and community health research, with a specific interest in promoting lung and colorectal cancer screening in the Latinx community. He was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and attended the University of Wisconsin for his undergraduate degree in Sociology and Psychology.

We invite you to reach out to him and welcome him via [email](#). He looks forward to connecting and working with you all.



Newly Funded Project

Newly funded research study to improve colorectal cancer screening in high-risk patients



One million Americans are diagnosed with high-risk polyps of the colon or rectum each year. These individuals are at increased risk for colorectal cancer (CRC) and are therefore recommended to repeat CRC screening with a colonoscopy in three years. Unfortunately, many people in this high risk-category do not receive this potentially lifesaving colonoscopy at 3 years. Center Associate Director, Dr. Fola May has received funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI) to lead a team in investigating the best ways to increase uptake of repeat colonoscopy at 3 years in this high-risk group. The team, which includes Center Director Dr. Roshan

Bastani and Center Faculty Member Dr. Catherine Crespi, will examine the effectiveness of a multi-level, health system intervention implemented at UCLA Health over the next 5 years. The intervention will include use of artificial intelligence-assisted technology to identify high-risk patients, notify healthcare providers when screening is due, and facilitate colonoscopy referral and scheduling. The multidisciplinary research team includes investigators with expertise in clinical medicine, health services research, medical informatics, natural language processing, population health, economics and implementation science. If successful, this intervention has the potential to be adapted for other health systems and reduce the colorectal cancer burden.

National Immunization Awareness Month



August marks National Immunization Awareness Month, an opportunity to highlight the importance of vaccines for all age and population groups. At the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity, we are dedicated to conducting research and outreach activities aimed to increase vaccination in diverse groups at greatest risk of disease. The CDC has developed a wide range of resources that can be used to promote vaccination. To visit their website press the button below:

[Visit the CDC website](#)

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination

August 1-7th was California HPV Vaccine Week, an annual observance in California adopted to increase awareness of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The HPV vaccine can prevent up to six different types of cancers, including cervical and throat cancers. The vaccine is recommended for boys and girls starting at age 9. Unfortunately, vaccine uptake remains low across the state, and especially so in some of the populations most affected by these cancers.

Our team at UCLA, led by Center Director Dr. Roshan Bastani and Associate Director Dr. Beth Glenn, is currently partnering with [Northeast Valley Health Corporation \(NEVHC\)](#) on a PCORI-funded (Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute) study aimed to increase HPV vaccination. Other participating Center members are Drs. Alison Herrmann and Catherine Crespi. In addition, our group has developed English and Spanish language toolkits to support promotion of the HPV vaccine on social media. These resources are available for download on our Center website:



[Visit our website](#)