



IDEA NEWSLETTER

Focused on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Advancement



Spotlight on CB Latinx Alumni

Josue Moran, PhD

CB Advisor: Carlos Moreno, PhD
Current Occupation: Co-founder/VP, Research and Development, Angstrom Bio

Alessandra Richardson, PhD

CB Advisor: Adam Marcus, PhD
Current Occupation: Senior Medical Writer, Vaniam Group

Valentina Gonzalez-Pecchi, PhD

CB Advisor: Haiyan Fu, PhD
Current Occupation: Academic Investigator, Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepcion in Chile

Upcoming Latinx Event this Week

The Latinx Graduate Student Association welcomes you to the Taste of Latin America, a cultural event for Latinx Heritage Month. Celebrate Latinidad through food and drinks from local Latin restaurants in Atlanta. Build community and learn about the rich culture of Latin America.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/lgsatasteof



In My Own Words by Rae Hunter

The Latinx community is a very diverse group that consists of individuals from all different racial and ethnic backgrounds. There is not one “look” or identity that can place us in a box. We may identify as having indigenous, African, Asian or European ancestry or a combination of such ancestries with various cultural backgrounds. I identify as both Black and Latinx. My father is African-American and my mother is Panamanian descended from African ancestry. I have had to fight for my own Afro-Latinx identity in spaces where based on my appearance and also lack of Spanish fluency I have been considered non-Latinx. I have lived scared to speak of both identities because of ridicule and feeling excluded for these reasons. Now I myself have learned the way to overcome is to always bring my true authentic self and to not let anyone deny my own ethnic and cultural identities based on their limited viewpoint. The Latinx community is rich with culture and diversity and we bring our own diverse backgrounds that have significantly impacted our society for the better. I challenge us all to be who we are, unapologetic and authentic, in any space that benefits from you being there. I also challenge everyone to take the time to learn those around you in a deeper way, valuing all identities whether visible or not.

Hispanic vs. Latinx Explained

Hispanic: This term refers to a person from Spain and/or other Spanish-speaking countries, such as Mexico, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, to name a few. The United States government implemented this term for census purposes to be able to categorize a diverse group of individuals under one umbrella.



Digital Art by Kaitlyn Collins

Latino/a: This term refers to a person born or having descended from Latin America, including Central America, South America and the Caribbean. It became used in the early '90s and excludes those born or descended from Spain.

Latinx: This is a gender-neutral term that has the same meaning as Latino/a. It is a term of inclusivity for everyone. It was popularized in the 00's.



Dr. Luis Parada

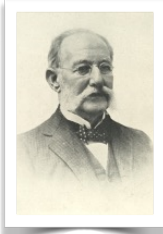
Faculty Reflection by Dr. Anna Kenney

Since I was a graduate student, I have always admired Dr. Luis Parada. Dr. Parada is a native of Bogota, Colombia. He is currently the director of the Brain Tumor Center at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Shortly after publishing his discovery of an essential axon growth factor, nerve growth factor, Dr. Parada moved his research focus into the area of CNS tumors (which I currently study), where he and his lab have made numerous exciting discoveries and truly advanced the field. As a postdoc, I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Parada for the first time at a Keystone conference. Despite his many awards, including election to the National Academy of Sciences, he is a really down-to-earth and friendly person. He is an avid skier and a lot of fun to hang out with on and off the slopes! Dr. Parada has always supported the advancement of junior scientists, especially women. Through the years he has been a great source of advice and mentorship for me, despite never having personally been in his lab. Thank you so much, Dr. Parada, for your dedication to me in my academic career and for your dedication to diversifying the scientific community!

**For other inspiring
Hispanic/Latinx scientists
click [here](#).**

Some Notable Latinx Scientists

Carlos Juan Finlay (1833 – 1915)



Carlos was born on December 3, 1833, in Puerto Principe, Cuba. He graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia and went on to practice medicine in Havana. At a scientific conference in Washington D.C., Carlos was the first to propose that the mosquito was the carrier for Yellow Fever. However, for decades, his hypothesis was taken with skepticism. It wasn't until he persuaded an American military surgeon Walter Reed to investigate the mosquito carrier, that his theory was taken seriously. With the help of Reed, Finlay was able to find more definitive data and prove that the mosquito was indeed the carrier for the disease. With this discovery, yellow fever was wiped out of Cuba, Panama, and eventually throughout most of the world.

Diana Trujillo (1980 –)

Diana Trujillo was born on January 4, 1980, in Cali, Colombia. She moved to the United States at the age of seventeen with only \$300 to pursue her dream of working for NASA. To learn English, she took English lessons at the Miami Dade College while working full-time to support her aerospace engineering studies at community college, and later at the University of Florida and University of Maryland. Trujillo joined NASA in 2007, serving many roles over the years, including her current role as Flight Director and Robotic Arm System domain lead for the Mars Perseverance mission. Trujillo is a strong advocate for increasing Latinx and female representation in STEM. In 2020, she was awarded the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Bruce Murray Award for Excellence in Education and Public Engagement. She also currently serves on the executive committee of the Brooke Owens Fellowship for undergraduate women seeking a career in aviation or space exploration.



César Milstein (1927 – 2002)

Monoclonal antibodies have revolutionized modern medicine. We can thank Dr. César Milstein for his Nobel Prize winning research (which was awarded jointly with Dr. Georges Kohler in 1984). Dr. Milstein produced the 1st monoclonal antibodies in 1975, when scientists were struggling to create stable antibodies with long half-lives at large quantities. Dr. Milstein solved this problem by incorporating with immortal myeloma cells, which changed modern medicine as we know it. Dr. Milstein was born to immigrant parents in Bahia Blanca, Argentina. He attended Buenos Aires and Cambridge universities, where he earned his doctoral degree. He spent most of his career at Cambridge University and held dual British-Argentine citizenships during this time.



Marta Orellana Story

In 1946, the "US infected 1,500 Guatemalans with syphilis, gonorrhea and chancroid to test an early antibiotic, penicillin," including many women, "orphans in Guatemala City, along with prisoners, military conscripts, and prostitutes." Approximately 13% of Guatemalans infected were left untreated. The US did not acknowledge having taken part in the studies until 2010. Marta Orellana was infected as a child and did not know she had syphilis until the US 2010 announcement and apology. Marta represents in many ways the perseverance of victims affected by this study. Without her and others like her we would not have knowledge about penicillin though the means by which we obtained this medical information was utterly deplorable and inhumane. We acknowledge all the innocent lives who unknowingly sacrificed their health and livelihood due to exploitation for the sake of scientific research. Read the full article [here](#).

