

WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Newsletter

Bienvenidos!

LMSA Faculty Spotlight

MEET DR. LEYLA APONTE



Dr. Leyla Aponte, M.D., is a highly accomplished physician, educator, and leader in internal medicine. A proud Puerto Rican, she began her academic journey at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, earning a Bachelor of Science in Pre-Medical Studies, graduating cum laude. She went on to receive her Doctor of Medicine degree from the Ponce School of Medicine in 1995. Dr. Aponte completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of South Florida (USF) College of Medicine, where she has since built a remarkable career.

Currently, Dr. Aponte serves as an Assistant Professor and Supervising Attending Physician in both inpatient and outpatient services at USF and Tampa General Hospital. In her role as Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program, she plays a pivotal part in shaping the next generation of physicians. Recognized for her teaching excellence, Dr. Aponte has received numerous accolades, including multiple "Outstanding Outpatient Teaching Awards" and the USF Status of Latinos (SOL) Award.

Bilingual in English and Spanish, Dr. Aponte is deeply committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in medicine. She has developed and led workshops and lectures on topics such as narrative medicine, the importance of Spanish in healthcare, and medical ethics. Her innovative approach to education has also earned her recognition as a faculty mentor and advocate for culturally competent care.

In addition to her teaching and leadership roles, Dr. Aponte is actively engaged in research and quality improvement initiatives. Her work has included addressing vaccine hesitancy, developing depression screening protocols, and improving care for refugee populations. She has contributed to both academic medicine and creative writing, blending her professional expertise with her passion for storytelling through published short stories and literary contributions.

Ask a LMSA Student or Faculty Member

This column is dedicated to our M1 students, providing a unique opportunity to ask questions to experienced LMSA M2 or M3 members, or even our esteemed LMSA faculty members. Simply fill out the provided Google form with your question, and look forward to seeing the answers in the next newsletter.

This Week's Question:

What is it like to be a part of the LMSA Executive Board?

[THIS WEEK'S ANSWER](#)

[SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION](#)

Faculty Mentors

Find out more about the faculty supporting LMSA @ MCOM. On our Teams page, students can refer to our current list of Latino faculty to contact for support in the areas of shadowing, research, and career advising. We are always looking to add to this growing list to include specialties that are not yet represented. If any of you have contacts in any field that LMSA students could contact to add to our faculty mentor list, please email their name and email to elianaburgos@usf.edu.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Past Events!

Thank you for attending our LMSA Faculty/Resident Q&A Dinner. We had an incredible time and received lots of great insight from our panelists. Here are some pictures to recap the night!



Happy Holidays

No December events! Enjoy the holidays! January newsletter will contain more events for the new year!



Upcoming Events



USF LINGUALINK ELL Tutoring and Mentoring program

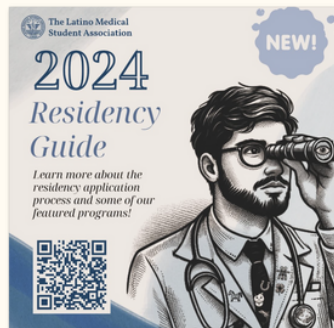
- USF MCOM LMSA and Marshall Middle Magnet IB World School are partnering to create an ELL Tutoring and Mentoring Program starting in January 2025. We need your help!
- We are seeking dedicated volunteers to support our middle school ELL (English Language Learner) students as they navigate their educational journey and transition to life in the U.S. By mentoring and tutoring in English Language Arts, you can make a meaningful impact in their lives, helping them build language skills and confidence. Your support will not only enhance their academic success but also ease their transition into a new culture. If you have a passion for teaching and a desire to empower the next generation, we would love to have you on our team. Together, we can create a welcoming environment where every student can thrive!
- This would be a monthly or bi-monthly commitment (once every other month). We would have a virtual onboarding training over winter break as well to ensure you are well-equipped for this volunteer opportunity. Please share with any other Spanish speakers you know who would be interested in volunteering!
- If you are interested, please sign up using this [link](#)

Updates from LMSA Nationals

LMSA NATIONAL UPDATES



LMSA Mock interviews with NHMA faculty



LMSA has created a residency guide for this year! Check out the image below for more details.



Join LMSA Nationals Mentorship Discord



LMSA National Mentorship Committee Presents: How to Study for Step 1

LMSA SOUTHEAST UPDATES

LMSA Regional Conference

- LMSA's Southeast Regional Conference is taking place on March 14-16 at Duke University in North Carolina. We would love for medical students and faculty to join us at this conference and represent USF!
 - More information about this will be provided very soon. Our USF MCOM LMSA chapter will be actively inviting students to join us in registering to attend and potentially present research. Travel grant funding will be looked into during that time as well, and there will be meeting to orient those interested in attending.

LMSA Regional Conference Research Symposium 2025

- Submit your abstract for the conference's poster presentation! The Research Symposium will take place on Saturday, March 15th from 3:45pm - 5:15pm EST. The deadline to submit applications is Sunday, Jan 5th.
 - Submission form: <https://forms.gle/szCvYNMZ6WEjSNJJ6>

LMSA Southeast Instagram @lmsa_southeast



Easy "Recetas"

This LMSA recipe book has "edit" access, so feel free to add a recipe that is near and dear to your heart!

[CLICK FOR FULL RECIPES](#)



Volunteering

At LMSA we are all about giving back! Click below to find the latest opportunities.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Upcoming Events

No December events! Enjoy the holidays!

[NEW EVENTS](#)

Contact Our E-Board

President: Eliana Burgos

elianaburgos@usf.edu

Treasurer: Maysie Calzon

mcalzon@usf.edu

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Javier Cuevas

jcuevas@usf.edu

Vice President: Esaan Azizi

eaazizi@usf.edu

PR Chair: Jeremias Munoz

jeremias@usf.edu

Donations & Contributions

[DONATION INFORMATION](#)

Join Our "Grupito"

Click the links below to join LMSA at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. We are so excited for you to join us!

STUDENTS

[BULLSCONNECT](#)

[GROUPME](#)

[STUDENT EMAIL GROUP](#)

[LMSA INSTAGRAM](#)

[LMSA WEBSITE](#)

FACULTY

WITH THE TRANSITION AWAY FROM TEAMS, OUTLOOK WILL SERVE AS THE PRIMARY COMMUNICATION AND INVITATION SOURCE

[FACULTY EMAIL GROUP](#)