

WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Newsletter

Bienvenidos!

LMSA Faculty Spotlight

MEET DR. ALFREDO ORTEGA COTTE



Dr. Alfredo Ortega Cotte is a first-year Internal Medicine resident at the University of South Florida. He provides inpatient care at Tampa General Hospital, Moffit Cancer Center, and the James Haley VA. He also serves a predominantly low income and Spanish speaking patient population at TGH HealthPark. He completed his Bachelor of Science at the University of South Florida in 2019. Shortly after graduation, he worked as an ER Tech at Plantation General Hospital, Broward County, during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Later that same year he started medical school at the USF Morsani College of Medicine (MCOM) where he served as Class President. Throughout his medical journey, he served as a healthcare volunteer and Junior Faculty in two medical mission trips to the Dominican Republic, where he provided primary care services to rural underserved areas and Haitian refugee camps. He also served as President of the International Health Service Collaborative at MCOM, where he led a pilot service trip of interdisciplinary health teams to Medellin, Colombia, and provided medical services to the poorest urban district of the city in collaboration with Universidad CES.

His areas of research and publications have focused on understanding the impact of COVID-19 and pandemic policies among Spanish and Arabic speaking refugees in the city of Tampa. His work was presented during the annual Refugee Task Force of Southwest Florida meeting, which allowed key interventions and aid of refugees in the region at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Ortega Cotte was born and raised in Colombia, where he spent most of his childhood before moving to Florida at the age of 12. His biggest professional milestone has been surviving colon cancer for the sole reason that it taught him a career lesson, through the eyes of being a patient, not found on any medical book or peer-reviewed journal: "sometimes the best medication to give is Kindness q daily, and its does not require a medical degree." His career goals are to become a Hospitalist with a focus on International Medicine and Global Health. He hopes to continue to work with LMSA at USF to mentor any Latino/Latina medical student through the challenges of being an underrepresented member of the medical community. His biggest message to Latino/Latina medical students is: "Be proud of your Hispanic heritage because the medical community needs us more than ever. We are in high demand and a MUST for hospitals to have. And do not forget to use our beautiful language, strong interpersonal values, warm approach, cheerful music, diverse cultural traditions, and matchless food to connect with all our patients, especially our large Hispanic patient population. At the end of the day, a los latinos nos gusta que nuestros doctores nos hagan sentir en casa".

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's the best approach to finding a mentor in medical school?

[THIS WEEK'S ANSWER](#)

[SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION](#)

Upcoming Events

LMSA 2025–2026 Executive Board Interest Form

- It is time for our LMSA Executive Board turnover! We will be hosting elections in March but would like to know who is interested in each position in the meantime. Please fill out this [form](#) if you are interested in being on the LMSA Executive Board for the 2025–2026 term and email me at elianaburgos@usf.edu for any questions!

Centro Asturiano Tour

- Due to the great hospitality of our treasurer, Maysie, and her family, LMSA students, faculty, and residents are invited to come on a private tour of the Centro Asturiano de Tampa (you can learn more about this wonderful place in the bullet point below). The tour will be taking place on **February 22nd** around **11 AM**. More details about exact time and meeting point will be sent to those who RSVP using this [link](#).
- The Centro Asturiano de Tampa was a social club for immigrants and the descendants of immigrants from Asturias, Spain. Historically, membership included hospital benefits, cemetery benefits and health insurance.

Judeo-Christian Clinic: Volunteer on a Med Team!

- LMSA is hosting a women's health night at Judeo-Christian Clinic in collaboration with the Health Disparities Scholarly Concentration, Medical Spanish Club, and Women Building Women. It will be **February 19th** from **5–8-ish PM**. We will have a mandatory virtual training session on **February 17th** over Teams at **4 PM** for those who have signed up. Sign-ups are first come, first served, so feel free to sign up using this [link](#).
- If you are an LMSA faculty or resident and would like to volunteer, please email me at elianaburgos@usf.edu

Paella Night

- Due to the great hospitality of our faculty advisor, Dr. Javier Cuevas, and his family, LMSA students, faculty, and residents are invited to come to his house for Paella Night. Dr. Cuevas will be making some delicious paella for us to enjoy! Date is **March 15th** around **5 PM**.
- More details will be sent to those who RSVP to this [form](#) regarding address and exact time

LMSA 2025 Mentor/Mentee Match

- We have extended the LMSA 2025 Mentor/Mentee match! If you're an LMSA medical student mentee or a faculty member interested in becoming a mentor, please complete the form linked below by **February 14 at noon (12PM)**. The information collected will be used to carefully pair mentors and mentees.
- Mentor/mentee pairs will be notified by the end of February, along with contact information to schedule an initial meeting, either in person or virtually. We're excited to facilitate meaningful connections and look forward to seeing our students benefit from the guidance of our incredible faculty mentors!
- Match form [here](#)

USF LINGUALINK ELL Tutoring and Mentoring program

- We are excited to launch the first group of LinguaLink volunteers, who will begin tutoring at Marshall Middle Magnet School this February!
- The USF MCOM Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) is partnering with Marshall Middle Magnet IB World School to establish an ELL Tutoring and Mentoring Program starting in February 2025, and we need your support!
- If you're interested in making a difference, we invite you to join our second onboarding meeting in February. Sign up using the interest form below, and let's work together to empower students through language and mentorship! You can email our LMSA Mentorship Chair, Cherith, at cherith1@usf.edu for any questions you might have. If interested, please sign up using this [link](#)



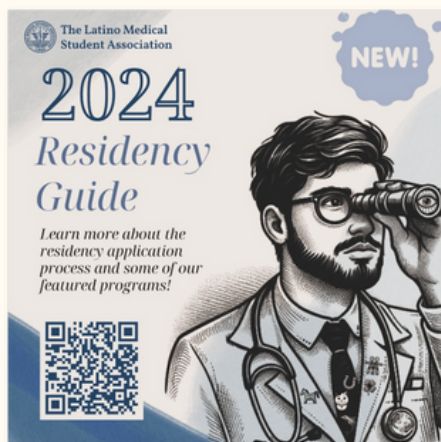
Faculty Mentors

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](#)

Updates from LMSA Nationals

LMSA NATIONAL UPDATES



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



Join LMSA Nationals Mentorship Discord



LMSA National Executive Board Application



LMSA SOUTHEAST UPDATES

LMSA Regional Conference

- LMSA President, Eliana Burgos, and member, Isabel Adamus, will be representing USF MCOM at the LMSA Southeast Regional Conference March 14-16!

LMSA SE Alumni Directory

- If you are an M4 or physician who is an alumni of LMSA, please fill out this Google form allowing LMSA Regional Executive Board to contact you if there is an LMSA Southeast member in search of a mentor who they can relate to in the specialties they are interested.

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

Coming Soon: Centro Asturiano Tour
February 22nd around **11 AM**

[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](#)

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[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](#)