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UIC Hispanic Center of
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO Excellence
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

annual report
2011-12



IMPROVING

medical care
for Latinos in Illinois

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Department Head's Message



The Department of Medical Education (DME) takes great pride in having the HCOE as a unit in our department and in its accomplishments. This annual report provides compelling testimony to the work of the HCOE, in descriptions of programs and accomplishments and in the statistics documenting success. The HCOE provides exemplary programs to recruit and nurture a competitive pool of Latino students and to recruit and develop Latino faculty members, with the ultimate goals of helping to eliminate health care disparities, by reducing the

shortage of Latino physicians in the workforce and providing culturally competent physicians.

The HCOE has been very successful in achieving its student recruitment and retention goals. In 2011, the UIC College of Medicine (COM) had the largest Latino incoming class in the country, with 49 of 320 medical students enrolled, outnumbering Texas, California, New York and Florida. Of 318 graduates, 49 Latinos received MD degrees, 13% of all degrees granted. One hundred and ninety-five (195) Latino medical students were enrolled at the UIC COM for the 2011-2012 academic year, comprising 13% of the total student body. "Hispanic Business Magazine" (September 2011 issue) ranked the UIC College of Medicine one of the top medical schools for Hispanics.

Among the most important goals of the HCOE is recruitment of a strong applicant pool. This is accomplished through programs to develop the pipeline of applicants, beginning in high school and extending to college students. The Medicina Academy and the Latino Health Sciences Enrichment Program (LA HSEP) are both programs aimed at high school students and their parents with 45 participants each in 2012. Medicina Scholars introduces college-level students (81 participants in 2012) to a medical career through a three-year curriculum, including a Leadership Development Conference. The Summer Undergraduate Student Research Fellowship provides a stimulus for careers in

medicine for Latino college students interested in research, with 10 fellows enrolled in 2012. The HCOE also nurtures and supports Latino students once they have been admitted to medical school. For example, the Summer Medical Student Research Fellowship Program enrolled 15 Fellows in 2012. The HCOE also sponsors a support program for assisting students with preparation for the USMLE exam. Finally, the HCOE sponsors a support program the Academia de Padres Leadership Institute (APLI) for the parents of Latino high school students who are interested in pursuing careers in the medical profession. These are just a few of the HCOE programs and activities supporting Latino students, parents and faculty members.

This past year, the HCOE, in collaboration with other DME faculty members, has been successful in obtaining a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to research the changes in motivation, beliefs, and behaviors among Hispanic high school students in pursuit of careers in biomedical and behavioral science. The collaboration has also included rigorous program evaluations, with the goal of studying, documenting and disseminating HCOE's impressive programs and results.

These efforts will take the work of the HCOE to the next level, of enhancing their national reputation for leadership in recruiting, nurturing and producing Latino physicians and health care leaders to serve the health care needs of the Latino community and the nation.

Director's Message

This report presents the accomplishments of a very successful year for the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) in Medicine. It began with the award of a four-year, \$1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, US Dept. Health and Human Services (US-DHHS) to study the factors that lead Latino high school students to think about biomedical careers. In spring we learned we had been awarded a five-year, \$3.4 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, US-DHHS, to expand all of our pipeline development programs. For the first time in the history of HCOE, the grant makes it possible to expand our services to rural areas, with the initiation of a rural Latino pipeline program with colleagues in the College of Medicine in Rockford. Also, the grant makes it possible to design a program for Latino freshmen students entering UIC with the goal of studying medicine or other health professions.

All of us at HCOE are mindful that much work remains ahead. There are major disparities in access to quality medical care for Latinos in Illinois. We believe that the lack of culturally and linguistically competent physicians worsens those disparities. We expect students in our programs to fully understand these issues and commit to be part of the solution. We also want all of our students (high school, college and medical) to know the power of research to improve the outcomes of medical care and increase quality of life. Finally, we realize the

significance of having more Latino faculty in the College of Medicine, who can advance research of importance to Latino patients, teach all medical students and residents and act as positive role models and mentors to students wishing to follow in their footsteps.

We are thankful for the trust that Federal agencies, the State of Illinois and the University have placed on us. We have witnessed the strong

desire that parents, students and schools have for opportunities to explore careers in the medical field. We are proud to see students willing to work hard to achieve their educational and personal goals; some of their stories are presented in the following pages. Our commitment is to provide every one of them the opportunities to do their best and make sure they put their community as a top priority. Enjoy the annual report!



HCOE mission:

To improve the medical care of Latinos in Illinois by providing programs that strengthen the pipeline and increase the number of Latino applicants pursuing health careers; enrich the education of Latino students, with an emphasis on producing linguistically and culturally competent practitioners; and build partnerships with others that share the same vision.

Why Do We Need the Hispanic Center of Excellence?

- Between 2000 and 2010, the number of Latinos in Illinois grew by 33%, greatly outpacing other racial/ethnic groups.
- However, because Latinos lag behind other groups in educational and socioeconomic status, health disparities continue to widen.
- Latinos disproportionately suffer the consequences of manageable diseases such as asthma and diabetes.
- Cultural and linguistic barriers in health care settings persist, making it more difficult for Latinos (even for those with insurance) to have regular care.
- Latino doctors are more likely than others to practice in Latino communities, and it has been shown that Latino patients prefer physicians from their own background, when they have a choice.
- In Illinois, less than 4% of all physicians are Latino, although Latinos make up 16% of the state's population.
- The pathway to the medical degree (and other health professions) requires strong preparation in the sciences and ongoing support through the long and demanding process.
- A strong preparation for medical school is the result of the early outreach which creates the academic support and awareness of fulfilling the medical school requirements. Students need guidance as early as the high school level.
- The Hispanic Center of Excellence at UIC College of Medicine is committed to this mission.

Goals:

- Develop a competitive applicant pool of Latinos for medical school admissions, in conjunction with partners within and outside of UIC.
- Enhance the academic performance and overall experience of Latino medical students at UIC.
- Provide opportunities for faculty and student research on Latino health issues for undergraduate and medical students.
- Design curricular initiatives to increase the linguistic and cultural competence of College of Medicine students.
- Provide faculty development activities to recruit, train and retain Latino faculty.
- Raise funds to support scholarships for Latino medical students.
- Develop international partnerships/affiliations with medical schools in Latin America.
- Provide, in collaboration with College of Medicine departments, continuing medical education (CMEs) programs for Latino physicians in the Chicago area.





Objectives:

- Increase the pool of competitive Illinois Latino applicants to the UIC College of Medicine by 20% from the current baseline.
- Increase the pool of competitive Illinois Latino applicants to college by 10% from the current baseline at each Medicina Academy partner school.
- Increase the number of Latino student research opportunities on Latino health-related issues.
- Increase the Latino student pass rate on the first attempt in the USMLE Step 1 to 90%, and increase the number who graduate on time to 92%.
- Increase the number of tenured Latino faculty at UIC and raise the number of Latino faculty on the tenure track.
- Introduce and expose students to Latino medical health issues and needs and improve resources for education.

Accomplishments:

- One hundred (100) Latino college students are currently participating in the *Medicina Scholars* program (60% of them are enrolled at UIC).
- Five cohorts of *Medicina Scholars* (160) have completed the program; 14 of them are in medical school and an additional 18 have applied recently.
- There are 67 participants in the *Medicina Academy Apprenticeship Program*, representing 5 Chicago high schools: Benito Juarez, Roosevelt, Mirta Ramirez, Gordon Tech and Taft.
- In June-July, 56 high school students took part in the 6 week *Latino Health Sciences Enrichment Program* at UIC. Twenty-six (26) Chicago high schools were represented in this group.
- Fourteen (14) undergraduate students (10 of them from UIC) participated in the *Summer Undergraduate Health Disparities Research Fellowship*, conducting exciting projects with faculty in medicine, nursing and public health.
- Fifteen (15) medical students completed the *Summer Medical Student Research Program*; since its inception in 1998, 209 medical students have participated in the program.
- Thirty (30) second-year medical students took advantage of the USMLE Step 1 support program; 92% of them passed the exam on the first attempt, the other 8% passed on the second try.
- In fall 2012, the work of HCOE contributed to the enrollment of 62 Latinos in the first-year medical school class, or 19% of the total. This makes UIC #1 in the nation for matriculation of Latino medical students.
- In spring 2012 the COM graduated 40 Latino M.D.s comprising about 15% of all (263) graduates.
- Of the 7 medical schools in Illinois, UIC graduates 50% of all Latino M.D.s
- *Hispanic Business* magazine ranked UIC College of Medicine as a “top 10” medical school for Latinos for the eighth year in a row; *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* ranked UIC #1 in the production of Latino M.D.s
- In summer 2012 the Hispanic Center of Excellence was awarded a five-year, \$3.4 million federal grant to address disparities in minority health care.



the year in review

2011 2012

In fall 2011, the Hispanic Center of Excellence in Medicine celebrated its twentieth anniversary with an alumni reunion. Fittingly, the Center honored 20 of its physician alums who have continued to give back to the Center and the Latino community. Also, the celebration marked not only the start of an integrated minority program within the University of Illinois College of Medicine but also the beginning of an educational force throughout the Latino Chicagoland community. In particular, this past year in addition to directing its pipeline programs for Latino students from the high school through the medical school level, the Hispanic Center of Excellence worked closely with the Latino community by participating in various health fair and academic informational functions such as New Futuro, El Dia del Niño and La Fiesta del Sol. The Center's staff participation in education fairs continued to reinforce their belief that while there is a high demand for education and scholarships, there is little information or guidance to direct Latino students and their parents in order to maximize their potential.

In order to continue addressing such issues and assist in bridging these gaps, the Hispanic Center of Excellence received a 4 year, \$1.0 million federal grant from the National Institutes of Health to examine changes in motivation, beliefs, and behaviors related to pursuing careers in biomedical and behavioral sciences among Latino high school students. Embarking on this investigative project, at our partner high schools, will not only help us gain insight to better understand the academic and personal needs of these students, but will help develop appropriate programs for career exposure and effective advising methods.

The Hispanic Center of Excellence ended the year with the exciting news of having been awarded a 5 year federal HRSA grant. The HRSA grant will enable the Hispanic Center of Excellence to expand its mission and goals related to its pipeline programs which will include the addition of Medicina Fellows, a program for medical students interested in learning more about residency and preparing for the USMLE.

Medicina Academy Apprentice Program (MAAP)

Developed in 2009 in partnership with Chicago high schools, MAAP is a 4-year premedical program for Latino high school students interested in biomedical careers. The purpose of the program is to initiate an educational pathway into medical school by investing in the preparation of Latino high school students aspiring to become physicians and to assist with their development and transition to college. A total of 10 students from each partner high school are selected for each cohort, during their freshman year, to participate in this undergraduate-level training program. The program takes place on a monthly basis and has a two-part curriculum (university based and high school based) that consists of fieldtrips, seminars/lectures, workshops, lab sessions, and Red Cross certification courses that help to prepare students for biomedical careers.



Latino Health Science Enrichment Program (LaHSEP)

Applicants	237
Enrolled	57
Completed	56

Begun in 2009 and offered in partnership with the Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) program at UIC. The purpose of LaHSEP is to enrich the academic preparation of students attending Chicago public and charter high schools. Every summer 60 participants participate in a series of seminars to enhance their skills in science reasoning, mathematics, and writing in order to prepare for the ACT. Also, students take part in workshops geared towards college readiness and career exploration in the health sciences.





Medicina Scholars

Established in 2005, this 3-year program guides and supports Latino undergraduate students interested in the medical profession, with the ultimate goal of preparing students to become competitive applicants for medical school admissions. It admits a cohort of 30 students every fall and each group partakes in a series of professional development/medical seminars designed to expand their familiarity with

the health field. The curriculum specifically provides a strong foundation in the history of medicine, professionalism issues, public health policy, cultural competence, primary and specialized care, and issues and guidelines for medical school admissions processes. Additionally, Scholars are required to take part in academic advising and community service activities.

Representing 28 Chicago Neighborhoods and Suburbs

- Addison • Albany Park • Archer Heights • Back of the Yards
- Berwyn • Blue Island • Bolingbrook • Brighton Park
- Chicago Lawn • Cicero • Craigen Branch • Elgin
- Elmhurst • Gage Park • Hegewisch • Lakeview
- Lynwood • Mckinley Park • Melrose Park • Montclare
- Northlake • Plainfield • Rogers Park • Scottsdale
- South Chicago • South East Side • West Ridge

2011 Cohort	Male	Female	Total
Applicants	11	33	44
Acceptances	8	23	31
Enrolled	8	23	31

Average GPA: 3.1
 GPA Range: 2.79 – 3.91
 Average BCPM GPA: 3.42
 BCPM GPA Range: 2.0 – 3.94
 Average ACT: 22.5
 ACT Range: 18 – 31

25
 Medicina Scholars
 are first generation
 college students

6
 Medicina Scholars
 are second generation
 college students

20
 Medicina Scholars
 have been accepted to
 medical school



HCOE Summer Undergraduate Research

The HCOE Summer Undergraduate Research Program is a 10-week summer research experience for junior and senior college students that was established in 2010 and introduces them to the field of health disparities research. Selected candidates are matched with appropriate UIC researchers engaged in research related to Hispanic or other minority health disparities such as diabetes, cancer, asthma, obesity, and kidney disease. Participants learn skills to test a hypothesis, interpret preliminary data and findings, and appraise the outcomes of research. Above all, this program aims to ultimately improve the quality of health care by providing Fellows with practical knowledge of research applications and its importance in the medical field and the treatment of patients.

2012 Participants

- All student participants are first generation
- Sixteen (16) students applied, 15 offers were made, 11 matriculated
- Each student received a \$2500 stipend for their participation in the research program.
- Two (2) participants, upon completion of the program, were awarded the Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Award. These students will continue to work on a Latino Men's Health Initiative: Latino Culture and Health Study.
- Two (2) additional participants were hired to work for the UIC Pathology Department on Cancer research

HCOE Summer Medical Research

The HCOE Summer Medical Student Research is a 10-week program introduces sophomore medical students to the field of biomedical and clinical research. Participants work with UIC faculty who conduct research focused on Hispanic or other minorities. Also, throughout the summer they take part in weekly seminars presented by distinguished faculty on a variety of research topics, and they have their own work critiqued by well established investigators. Participants receive support after the program to present their research at appropriate local or national conferences.

2012 Participants

- All student participants are first generation
- Eighteen (18) students applied, 17 offers were made, 15 matriculated
- Each student received a \$5000 stipend for their participation in the research program.
- Two (2) students abstracts were accepted to the *Journal of Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics*
- Two (2) additional students will be presenting their research at the 2012 College of Medicine Research Forum.



Academia de Padres Leadership Institute (APLI)

APLI is a leadership-training program created with the purpose to develop parents/ legal guardians to become informed consumers empowered with the tools to best support their child's development, interests, and educational trajectory in biomedical and health science careers. As with our other programs at the Hispanic Center of Excellence, the purpose of APLI is to provide a quality experience by providing parents and legal guardians with a holistic support system developed through monthly seminars based on the five pillars: empowerment, leadership, health awareness, parenting, and community outreach.



Dean's Scholarship

Nicole Lopez Class of 2015



Nicole Lopez graduated in 2006 from Columbia College with a degree in photography and continued her

studies with a post baccalaureate at Northwestern University. Nicole's experiences include volunteering at the Community Health Clinic and serving as a student Instructor with Bloodsucker. She has also volunteered at the Student Run Free Clinic (SRFC) and New Life Volunteering Society (NLVS). Nicole has in addition, served as President of the Emergency Medicine Interest Group (EMIG) and finally has served on the board for the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). Nicole plans to pursue Emergency Medicine and continue to serving the uninsured population of Chicago.

Anayatzy Franco Class of 2015



Anayatzy Franco graduated from Northwestern University in 2011 with a major in Biology and a double minor

in Global Health and Anthropology. Her passion to provide underserved communities with the health care they deserve stemmed from growing up in Chicago with minimal health care resources. The experience she gained at the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program at Case Western University School of Medicine in 2009 and at clinics in the U.S., Mexico, and Chile while volunteering further served to strengthen her decision to become a physician. Anayatzy's goal is to become a physician who utilizes her bilingual skills to serve marginalized communities on a local and international level.

HCOE Scholarship



Cesar Menchaca
Class of 2015

Cesar Menchaca graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2011, majoring in neuroscience. He organized the entire M1 class to conduct a community health fair (Campaña de Salud) to provide medical education and screenings to the underserved Hispanic communities of the Champaign county. He has also been involved in the Urban Health Program, Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA), GUIDES and the Pediatrics Interest Group. Cesar is currently beginning his second year in the College of Medicine and is considering general pediatric medicine.



Alex Merlo
Class of 2015

Alex Merlo's heavy involvement with the HCOE through his participation in the Medicina Scholars Program is just one example of his community activities related to medicine. He has also mentored Chicago high school students during a summer for LARES at UIC, and has traveled to Honduras on a medical mission trip. He has been a treasurer for two years for a Latino organization (LIVE) at Valparaiso University and has been elected to be its president this past year. He has established new mentoring and outreach programs for Latinos within and outside the school. Alex has also volunteered in the emergency room of Valparaiso's Porter County Hospital, has helped found a health oriented mentoring program in the university, and has worked for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Finally, he has volunteered time tutoring Latino elementary school children in Valparaiso. Alex is now entering his second year of medical school at UIC.

Corona Scholarship

To mark the creation of the Don Nemesio Diez Riega Endowed Scholarship Fund, Barton Beers established this fund to support the education of Latino Students, as well as to create a memorial to Don Nemesio Diez of Grupo Modelo. Established on August 25, 2000.

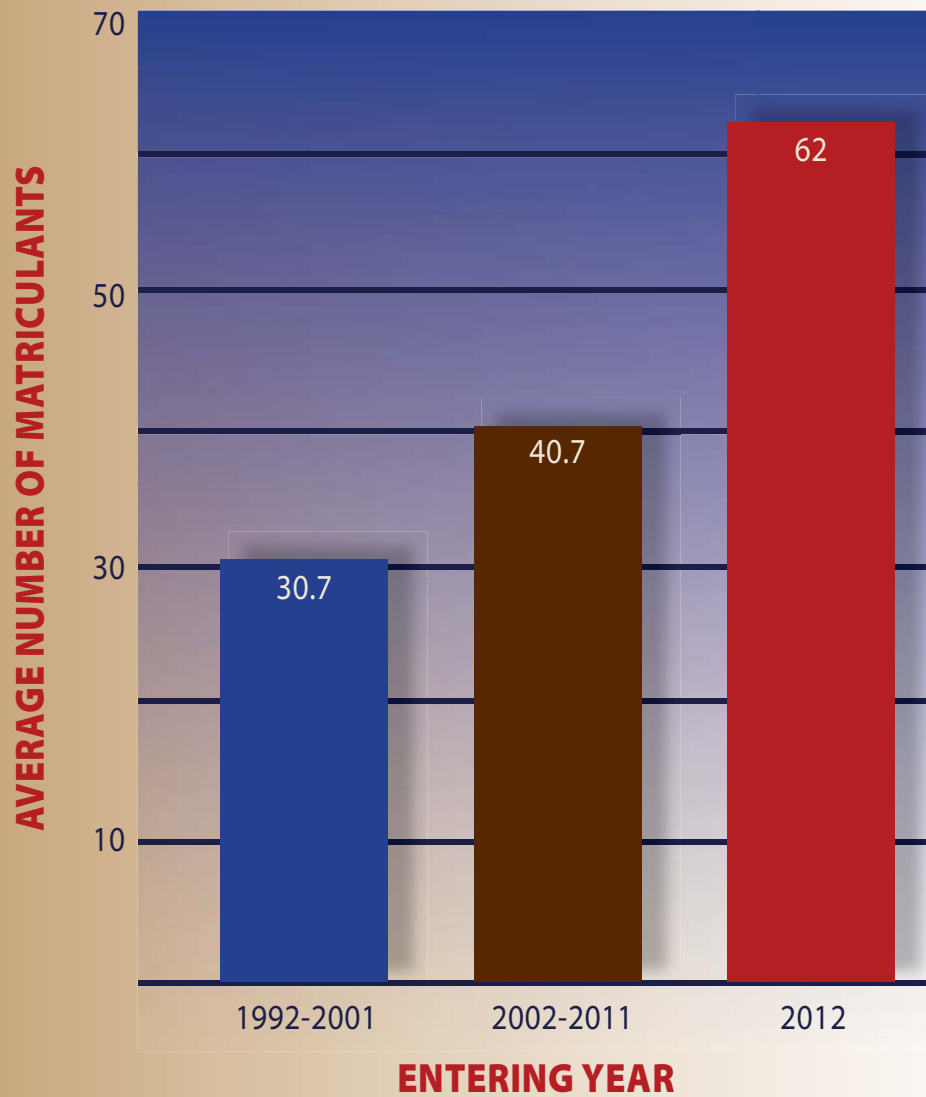
Jennifer Cueto
Class of 2016



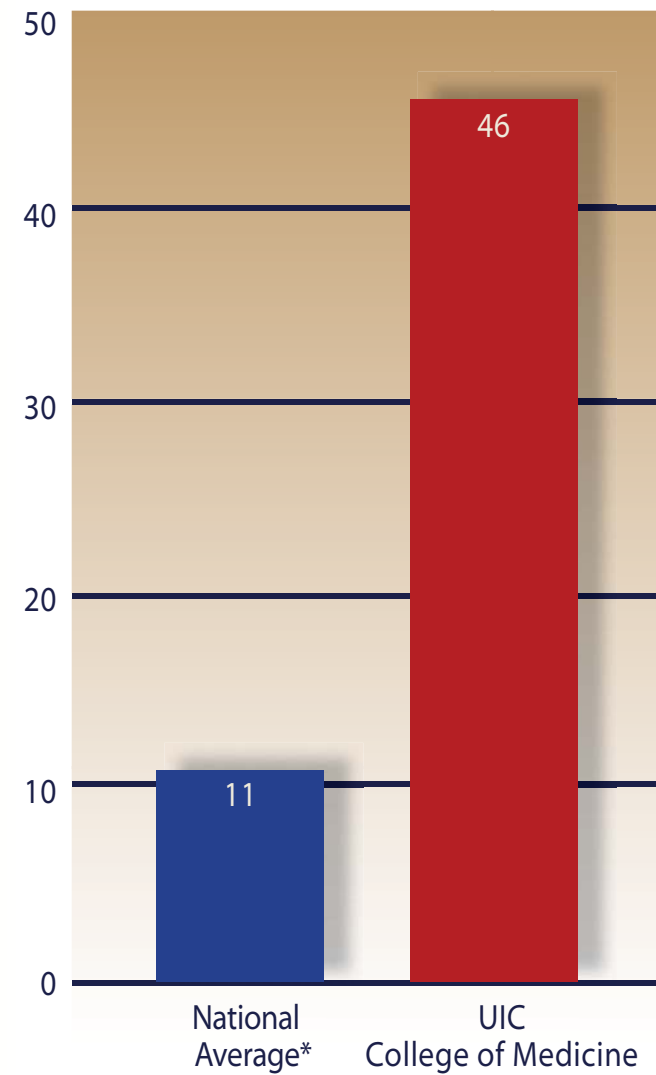
Jennifer Cueto graduated in 2007 from Northwestern with a major in Human Development and Psychiatric Services and a minor in

Psychology. She first began working at John H. Stroger Hospital as a social work intern during the spring of 2006. Jennifer's experiences at the free health care hospital of John H. Stroger, along with her work as a Research Assistant at the Cancer Center, have helped solidify her desire to not only pursue medicine, but to also continue to work with underprivileged families. Jennifer, who is currently in the Urban Medicine program, plans to specialize in Pediatrics or Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

By the Numbers



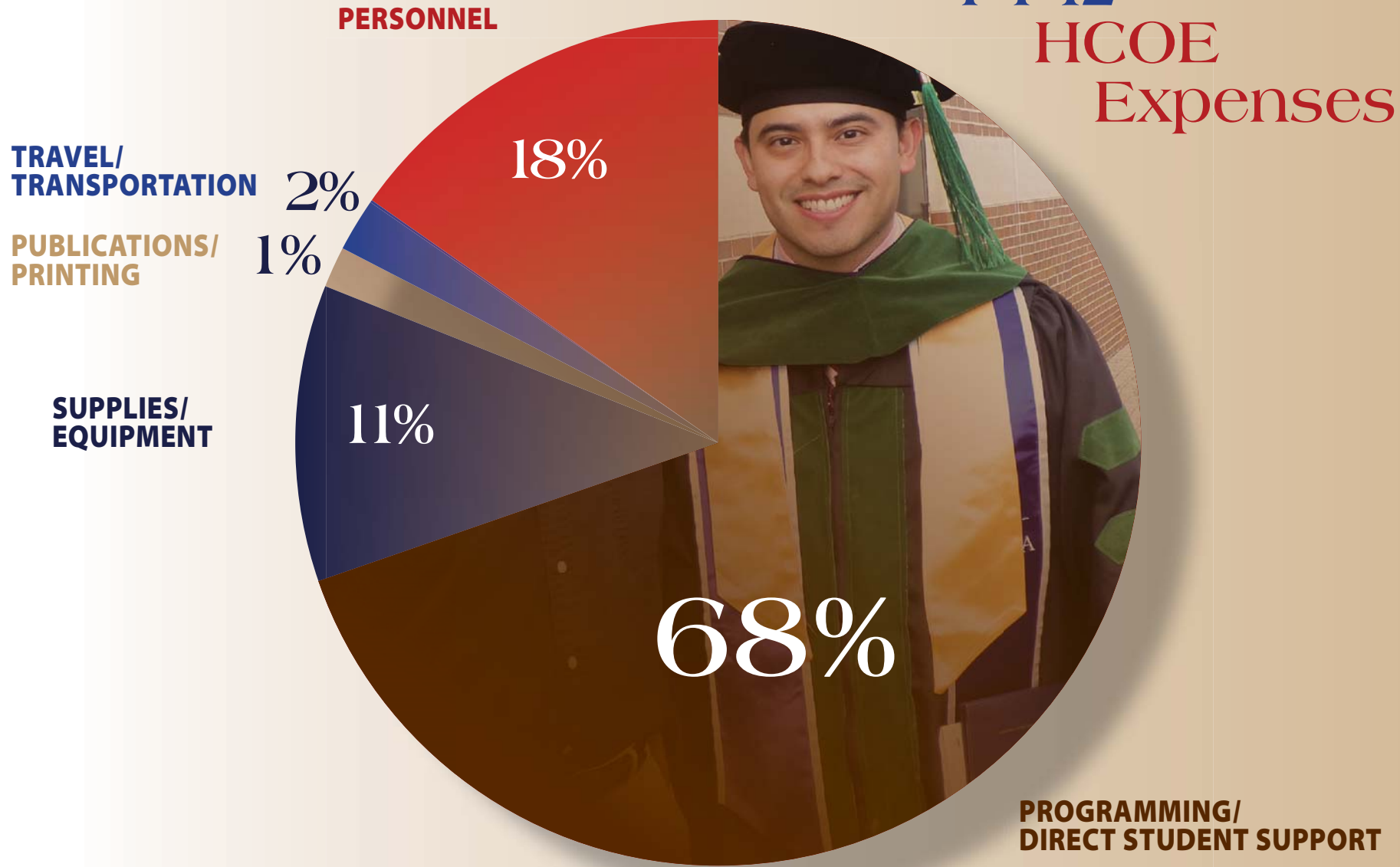
2011 LATINO FIRST YEAR MATRICULANTS, UIC & NATIONAL



*Out of 132 Accredited U.S. Medical Schools

Finances

FY 12 HCOE Expenses





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AT CHICAGO **Excellence**
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE