

Illustrious Awards Recipients - Medicine

The Illustrious Awards

Honoring Distinguished Latinos



T

here are many 'Firsts' for US Latinos in medicine. Some notable mentions would include:

-Severo Ochoa, a Spanish-American biochemist and molecular biologist who was co-awarded the 1959 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering an enzyme that enables the synthesis of Ribo Nucleic Acid, known as RNA.

-Dr. Juan Francisco Battle, Pioneer in the use of the Amniotic Membrane in eye surgery. He collaborated with Stuart Cummings of England in perfecting the "Crystalens," a contact lens that helps to alleviate cataracts.

-Santiago Ramón y Cajal, born 1 May 1852, and passed away on 17 October 1934, was a Spanish pathologist, histologist, neuroscientist, and Nobel laureate. His original pioneering investigations of the microscopic structure of the brain have led him be designated by many as the father of modern neuroscience. His medical artistry was legendary, and hundreds of his drawings illustrating the delicate arborization of brain cells are still in use for educational and training purposes.

-Dr. Eduardo D. Rodriguez, MD, DDS, is a Cuban plastic surgeon who, in August 2015, led a team of specialists in performing the most complex and comprehensive face transplant to date as part of the Langone's Face Transplant Program of New York University.



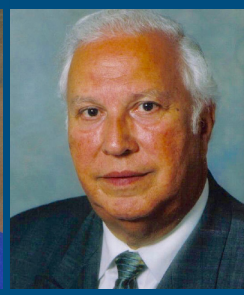
Juan de Dios de la Cruz, MD



Carlos E. Lugo MD, AACCS



Late Gladys Crispín Halvorsen, MD

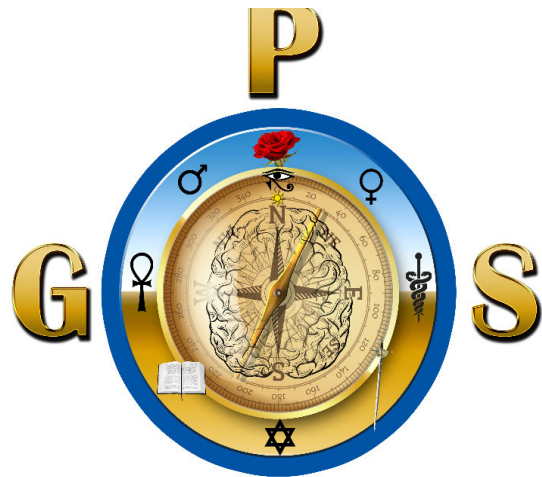


Hugo M. Morales MD



Miguel Hernández MD

Illustrious Awards - 2018



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DR. MIGUEL R. HERNÁNDEZ, M.D., ABPN

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Illustrious Award Recipient - Medicine

Pioneering/Sexology



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Carlos E. Lugo, MD, AACS, a doctor whose passion is to educate people from diverse backgrounds on the importance of practicing and sustaining a healthy sexual life style. A widely respected sexologist, Dr. Lugo is an American Board of Sexology Certified Clinical Sexologist, and an American Association of Christian Schools (AACS) Clinical Fellow.

He has extensive administrative experience in health public service in Dominican Republic, where he occupied health-related government positions, as well as in the United States where he has had a practice for many years. Dr. Lugo has also been an educator in the Paterson School District, where he was instrumental in the honorable work of leading high school students on a path of service and leadership.

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Mensaje a Nuestro Querido Padre Juan Manuel de Dios de La Cruz

Viernes 14 de Septiembre del 2018

Juan Manuel de Dios de La Cruz, MD
Puerto Rico, Estados Unidos de América

Querido Papi:

Nosotros, tus hijos, con inmenso amor, mucho cariño y respeto, nos unimos en familia para felicitarte y celebrar contigo, con tus pacientes y toda la gente que siempre te ha admirado, el gesto tan significativo del Instituto Para Estudios Latinos en la universidad Berkeley College de reconocer tus logros y trayectoria de vida con un Premio Ilustre porque eres un doctor pionero en el campo de la medicina y porque has dedicado toda tu vida a ser un modelo a seguir.

Aunque no lo digamos frecuentemente, siempre nos hemos sentido orgullosos de ti, Papi.

El gesto del Instituto de resaltar tus logros y trayectoria, está fuertemente atado al gran respeto que todos los que te conocemos sentimos por tí. Nos estremeció el testimonio en video sobre tu vida que compartiste en la entrevista que te hizo el Instituto; revelas que aún en esta etapa de tu vida, tu reto es mantenerte al día sobre los últimos adelantos en la práctica de la medicina. Papi, esas palabras nos tocaron muy profundo en nuestros corazones. Eres en verdad incansable y disciplinado; siempre estas ilustrándote, actualizándote, curando, salvando vidas, sirviendo a la gente y estudiando, hasta el punto que te graduaste de abogado luego de tu retiro en New Jersey. Y aunque te retiraste, decidiste continuar ejerciendo tu profesión de doctor en Puerto Rico. Papi, eres en verdad insuperable en tu afán de lograr metas y servirte a los demás. En tí vemos lo que quisieramos ser y lo que muchas personas y jóvenes anhelarían ser - un ser humano simple, sincero, lleno de sabiduría; una persona digna de mucho respeto y siempre comprometida con el bienestar de la humanidad.

Gracias, Papi, por ser como eres y por haber cosechado tantos éxitos. Gracias por ser camino a seguir para los que te amamos, respetamos, añoramos y seguimos a lo largo de toda la vida.

Sinceramente y con mucho cariño, tus hijos,

Ana Virginia, Juan Alfredo, Emelyn Yansser, Carola y Flavia

Illustrious Award Recipient - Medicine

Pioneering/General Surgery



Juan de Dios de la Cruz, MD

is a general surgery specialist in PR. Previously, his practice was in Newark, NJ. Dr. De la Cruz was born in Jaguate, Saint Cristobal Province of the Dominica Republic. He studied in *Instituto Politecnico Loyola*, and graduated as a medical doctor from Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo. He practiced medicine in several hospitals in the Dominican Republic.

He then migrated to Puerto Rico where he resided for about 22 years. While practicing medicine in Puerto Rico, he pursued post graduate studies and specialized in general surgery. In 1988, he relocated to New Jersey where he practiced medicine and resided with his family until 2012. At that time, in semi-retirement, he returned to his beloved Puerto Rico. Today, he is as active in emergency rooms in the hospitals of Puerto Rico, as he has been throughout his life.

Doctor de la Cruz is a humble, honest and hardworking man for whom his wife, children and medical profession are the center and inspiration of his life. He is a unique medical doctor who holds sacred the *Hippocratic Oath* to treat the ill to the best of his ability, to preserve patients' privacy, and to teach the secrets of medicine to the next generation.

One of his major accomplishments is to pass the *revalida*, the required examination to practice medicine in the United States. To this date, he considers remaining up to date in his profession, his biggest challenge.

As a physician, along the past half a century, he has healed the sick and saved countless lives in Puerto Rico and across the United States of America.

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Illustrious Awards - 2018



Dr. Elizabeth Halvorsen

Dr. Elizabeth Halvorsen and family express their utmost respect, admiration and love to her beloved Mother:

Gladys Crispín Halvorsen, MD

for her remarkable strength, perseverance and unwavering commitment in propelling herself from being a poor little-brown-orphan girl in rural Dominican Republic to a re-known psychiatrist in the United States of America. The Halvorsen Family wholeheartedly thanks The Institute for Latino Studies at Berkeley College for honoring our mother's legacy and commitment to provide mental health services to underserved communities in the Tri State Area.



Gladys as a young girl

Gladys with Rev. Father Thomas O. Basden & wife

Gladys and family, Puerto Plata, DR.

Gladys and Husband Roy Halvorsen

Illustrious Award - Medicine In-Memoriam

The Illustrious Awards

Honoring Distinguished Latinos

Pioneering/Psychiatry



Gladys Crispín Halvorsen, MD, was born in the countryside of the Dominican Republic, one of nine children, with very little hope of forging a successful life.

Orphan by mother at the age of nine, Gladys was given to Episcopalian ministers to raise. And raise her, they did, under an oppressive religious environment. Her life was molded by strict discipline and high expectations. She found solace of her circumstances in studying and reading, and dreaming of a getaway.

A highly intelligent, undeterred, skinny petite girl, she eventually escaped to the United States, at the age of 19. She was afforded the golden opportunity to study medicine, attain a medical doctor degree and become a psychiatrist.

Her life having turned completely, she committed to offering mental health services to underserved communities. She founded and operated three mental health clinics in New York and New Jersey, to cope with the increasing demand for mental health services.

She served at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital, which is New Jersey Department of Corrections largest psychiatric institution.

From suffering precarious childhood conditions and overcoming mental health challenges, Gladys became a dedicated medical doctor who provided the services she knew, at a personal level, were desperately needed.

She is survived by two children, one of which, Elizabeth Halvorsen, is also a practicing psychiatrist.

Illustrious Award Recipient - Medicine



Salute the

***Institute for Latino Studies
on its
Illustrious Awards Ceremony
and***

**Congratulate
the 2018 Honorees**



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Illustrious Award Recipient - Medicine

Psychiatry

Miguel Hernández is a seasoned Psychiatrist with an established practice in Washington Heights, New York for over a decade, providing critical services in mental health at Global Psychiatric Services GPS.

He attained a Medical Doctor Degree from Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, Santiago, Dominican Republic in 1996. From 1998 to 2001, he served as ship doctor at the M/V Regal Voyager, a tourism cruise ship in the Caribbean. His term on the ship enabled him to take the US Medical Licensing Examination for Foreign Medical Graduates, required for practicing in the United States.

He settled in New York City with his family, in 2001, and wisely took advantage of available educational opportunities to advance his career. He took a position as a researcher at Columbia University. He was also resident doctor in psychiatry at Harlem Hospital. In 2003, he became Chief Resident Doctor. In 2008, he completed the requirements to practice psychosomatic medicine at Saint Luke's Roosevelt Hospital, becoming the first Dominican specialist in this field. Dr. Hernández is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

His love for his new country, US, led him to enroll in the US Military Army Reserve, where he offered his skill set, quickly ascending from Captain to Major. Consolidating his professional experience with his commitment to do good to others. He currently serves in professional, as well as national advocacy organizations; he served as Chairman of the New York State Dominican Medical Association, and he is currently National Vice President of the Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR).

He is happily married to Olga Inmaculada Bourdier with whom he has two children: Elmer Akhenatón and Armani Enoch.



The Illustrious Awards

Illustrious Award Recipient - Medicine

Pioneering/Psychiatry

Hugo M. Morales, MD, is a prominent psychiatrist and civic leader and the founding medical director of the Bronx Mental Health Center, which he established in 1965. The Center provides innovative, comprehensive ambulatory mental health care services, including group and individual therapy sessions, to low income patients of the Bronx and other boroughs.

Dr. Morales has also served as the Director of the Department of Psychiatry at St. Francis Hospital in the Bronx, and as a psychiatrist at Manhattan State Hospital and Elmhurst City Hospital. He earned his medical degree at the University of Santo Domingo and did post-graduate work at the New York Policlinic Medical School and Hospital. He received his specialty training at Morrisania City Hospital, Harlem Valley State Hospital in Wingdale, N.Y. and Grasslands Hospital in Valhalla, N.Y. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians, and the American College of Forensic Examiners.

He was appointed as a permanent member of the Columbus Commission of New York State by former Governor Mario Cuomo and to the Council for Mental Health Planning in the State of New York by former Governor Hugh Carey.

He served on Mayor Edward Koch's Commission on Hispanic Concerns, and on the Advisory Board to the Human Resources Commissioner. He has been a consultant to many agencies including the New York City Police Department, the Board of Education, the Foster Home Care Division and the Social Security Administration. Since 1983, he has been President of the Medical Society of the State of New York. He is currently advisor to the Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR).

Nominated by New York State Governor George E. Pataki and unanimously approved by the NYS Senate, he was appointed in 2002 to The City University of New York Board of Trustees. Among his many accomplishments as a CUNY Trustee, Dr. Morales spearheaded the realization of *Nueva York*, a multiple Emmy Award Winning television series about Latinos; the program was originally conceptualized and proposed to Dr. Morales by Néstor Montilla, Sr., and subsequently produced by staff of CUNY TV, Channel 75,

Dr. Morales many prestigious honors include being the first Dominican American who received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1996. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is an American award founded by the Ellis Island Honors Society (formerly known as National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations - NECO), which is presented annually to American citizens whose accomplishments in their field and inspired service to the United States are cause for celebration.



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