The Inaugural Geiger Gibson-ACU Next Generation of Excellence Award Ceremony

This session recognizes the awardees of the inaugural Geiger Gibson-ACU Next Generation of Excellence Award, student leaders pursuing training in the health professions who are committed to care and service in underserved communities. The awardees were nominated by their institutions and selected for demonstrating initiative and leadership through direct service, innovation in care delivery, organizing and advocacy, and actively shaping programs and challenging systems to advance equity and access. During the session, the awardees will discuss their experience as community-centered, mission-driven clinician leaders.

Flor Alcantra Lopez, originally from Valencia, Venezuela, earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Carabobo in 2006 and completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2010. After nearly a decade of caring for women and families, political persecution forced her and her family to seek safety in the United States in 2019. Determined to continue a life of service, she joined Heart City Health as a Medical Assistant while rebuilding a healthcare career in a new country. While working full-time and raising a family, she earned a nursing degree in 2024 and now serves as a Pediatric RN Triage Nurse. Currently, Flor is completing a Family Nurse Practitioner program, with graduation expected in the summer of 2026. She remains committed to expanding access to compassionate, high-quality healthcare and hopes to inspire others to persevere through adversity, embrace new beginnings, and never lose sight of their purpose.

Tomás Correa Gaviria is an Internal Medicine Resident at Yale New Haven Hospital and Fair Haven Community Health Care in New Haven, CT. Originally from Medellín, Colombia, he earned his medical degree from Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana before joining Yale as a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Infectious Diseases, where his work focused on transmission-blocking vaccines against malaria. During residency, he has channeled that commitment to research rigor into improving care for underserved patients at Fair Haven, leading quality improvement projects to expand early liver disease screening and continuous glucose monitoring access for patients who would otherwise go without. He plans to pursue fellowship training in Gastroenteroloy/Hepatology, continuing to focus his research and clinical work on closing gaps in care for vulnerable communities.

Miranda Harris Martínez is a first-year resident in Family Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She recently graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School, where she partnered with Latinx adolescents to create community photo exhibitions at a teen clinic, organized a successful campaign to halt a proposed health system merger that threatened to increase healthcare costs, and developed Spanish-language insurance resources for migrant patients during a clerkship at a Community Health Center. She also was selected for the National Institutes of Health's Fogarty Global Health Fellowship, spending a year in the Peruvian Amazon collaborating with community health workers to support the development of culturally-informed mental health interventions alongside Indigenous communities. As a citizen-physician, Miranda is committed to advancing health equity through advocacy, community partnership, and the delivery of compassionate, justice-oriented care.

Saumya Sao is a third-year medical student at Stanford University School of Medicine and Health Equity Education Scholar pursuing a dual degree in epidemiology. Committed to advancing health equity through community partnership, education, and systems change, Sao founded Health EDU, a national nonprofit that equips future clinicians and adolescents with evidence-based sexual and reproductive health education through student-led programming and technology. At Stanford, Sao also launched the university's first student-run street medicine program, which delivers primary care, sexual and reproductive health services, harm reduction, and health navigation to unhoused communities across the Bay. Through these initiatives, Sao has built interdisciplinary partnerships with community organizations and developed sustainable models that integrate service, education, and research. Sao aspires to become an OB/GYN or Family Medicine physician working at the intersection of clinical care, public health, medical education, and policy to improve health outcomes for historically underserved communities.

Sponsored by Aledade