Biography

Lilia Cervantes, MD, is a bicultural and bilingual Latina physician, invested in achieving health equity for all people. Since joining the University of Colorado in 2008, Dr. Cervantes has dedicated her career to increasing diversity in the physician workforce, as well as health equity research. In 2009, she launched the Healthcare Interest Program (HIP), bringing together Universities (University of Colorado Denver Auraria campus, Regis, and Metro State University) and Denver-based community organizations to increase the number of underrepresented minority (URM) undergraduate students maintaining an interest in a healthcare career. She received the Rosa Parks Award and the President's Diversity Award for this work. Dr. Cervantes also founded the Health Equity Lecture Series at Denver Health, bringing academic and community leaders together to increase understanding of the social determinants of health in Denver. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Doris Duke Foundation, and the NIH, Dr. Cervantes' research is focused on improving patient-centered and clinical outcomes among documented and undocumented Latinos with end-stage renal disease on dialysis.