

Roberto Vargas, M.D., M.P.H. (Assistant Professor, in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Associate Natural Scientist, RAND Corporation.)

Dr. Vargas's professional interests include developing and testing interventions to improve the quality of health care and to reduce health disparities. Dr. Vargas has conducted research describing care-coordination models to reduce disparities in breast cancer outcomes as well as health outcomes for patients with diabetes. He has also conducted analyses of the impact of state Medicaid policies on health outcomes and utilization and is currently leading efforts to redesign subspecialty care to promote prevention and early detection of kidney disease.

In addition to conducting policy analyses and health services research he is currently a co-leader of several community-partnered workgroups for conditions including diabetes, kidney disease and cancer using a community-partnered participatory research approach. He is also partnering with the Los Angeles Urban League in the development of programs to assess and mitigate the negative impact of social determinants on community health outcomes and with the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine in the development of a research program to conduct outcomes studies in Integrative Medicine. He is an advisor to the Black Barbershop Health Outreach Program and mentors high school and undergraduate students through the National Institutes of Health's Short-Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons.

Dr. Vargas is board certified in Internal Medicine and practices in the Internal Medicine Faculty Practice at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Prior to joining the faculty at UCLA and RAND, Dr. Vargas completed a fellowship in General Internal Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard University School of Medicine and a Masters degree in Clinical Effectiveness at the Harvard School Public Health. He completed his residency and chief residency in the Yale Primary Care Internal Medicine Residency Program, and served as a clinician educator at North General Hospital in East Harlem, New York City. He received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College and his undergraduate degree in the History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania.