

“A people that loves freedom will in the end be free”

Simon Bolivar

Hi Everyone,

Some members of the Department are pleuripotential, like stem cells able to excel in more than one discipline of life. One such individual is **Francisco Noya**.

Born and raised in Peru, Francisco received his medical degree from the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima. He then ventured to the US where he undertook his residency in Miami at Jackson Memorial Hospital. If you know anything about South Florida demography and geography, this has got to be amongst the most toughest and grittiest of urban neighborhoods. This was followed by sub-specialty fellowships in infectious disease and allergy/immunology that included research experience at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas and at Texas Children's Hospital.

Francisco continued his personal journey northwards joining our Department in 1991 as an Assistant Professor and an Attending Physician in both the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Division of Allergy & Immunology. For 25 years now, Francisco has provided superb clinical service in both of these Divisions in outpatient clinics and as the hospital-based consultant 'on service'. Along the way, he also directed for over 15 years our Asthma Centre, emphasizing not only evidenced-based clinical management, but also by educating children and their families in the ways to prevent and control exacerbations in this chronic disorder that prompt either restrictions in the child's participation or the need to present to the hospital for an acute intervention. I would like to think that Francisco's efforts over the years are partly responsible for the substantive drop in ER visits and hospital admissions for asthma. He also has spent many a shift as an attending in our ER.

Francisco is recognized as a dedicated and passionate teacher. I am always impressed by his command of the medical literature on a topic in his various fields. This is perhaps the result of his resolute attendance at Departmental CME events including Grand Rounds even when food is not being served ! [this is an in-joke between Francisco and I]. He is invited often to give talks at the UGME and PGME level and in varied community settings. He was an Osler Fellow for the MDCM Class of 2011.

I always look forward to seeing Francisco. He has a gentle warm demeanor that oozes kindness and caring. This is sprinkled with an easy humor that is equal parts observational and self-deprecating. Negativity does not seem to be part of his molecular fabric. I always leave an encounter with Francisco feeling lighter, with a smile on my face.

As I said at the onset, some of us are indeed pleuripotential.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Michael

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