

HISPANIC DOCTORS MAKING HISTORY

While the number of Hispanic doctors who have and continue to make history is never-ending; there are some who have marshaled their strengths, talents and educational backgrounds to forge unexplored frontiers; ultimately paving the way for others to follow in their footsteps. The following is an active sampling of Hispanic physicians who have changed the face of medicine and effected international growth

Serena Auñón, M.D., M.P.H.

One Hispanic woman who made history and serves as an impeccable role model is Serena Auñón (M.D., M.P.H.) who was born on April 9, 1976 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Not only was she the second female Hispanic NASA astronaut; she was also the first Hispanic female medical doctor to become a NASA astronaut. She is an engineer as well.

Auñón began her educational trek at George Washington University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering. She then attended the University of Texas (Health Sciences Center) where she received a Doctorate of Medicine as well as Masters of Public Health at UT's Medical Branch.

Initially hired by NASA to "assist in medical operations for the International Space Station;" she was later chosen to be an astronaut and had her first mission in 2012 when she "piloted a DeepWorker 2000 Submersible for an exploration mission off Key Largo, Florida."



Dr. Carlos Canseco González (1921-2009)

Dr. Carlos Canseco garnered worldwide attention as not only an exceptional physician, but also for his work as a philanthropist. He was named a "Public Health Hero of the Americas" in 2002 by the Pan American Health Organization.



Dr. Canseco received his MD from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); later specializing in Allergology at Northwestern University and Clinical Immunology at the University of Pittsburgh. In Mexico he made history teaching the first university class ever in Allergology, as well as acquiring monies needed to build Monterrey's first Hospital for Children. In 1982-1984 he worked to obliterate polio and together with Albert Sabin developed an aerosol vaccination. Other works he is famous for include:

- Active member of Rotary International which he was the worldwide Chairman in 1984. During this time, he began a worldwide campaign to fight polio.
- Was the State Secretary of Health for Nuevo Leon
- Recipient of numerous Honorary Degrees from universities around the world
- 2004 the Mexican Senate honored him with the Belisario Dominguez Medal.



Dr. Antonia Novello

In 1990 George Bush appointed Dr. Antonia Novello to the post of Surgeon General of the United States. She was not only the first woman to be named, but also, she was the first Hispanic to have ever received the honor. Dr. Antonia Novello was familiar with “firsts;” she was the first woman at the University of Michigan to be named “Intern of the Year.” Highlights of her public service work include:

- Joining the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
- Working with the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism and Digestive Disorders at the National Institute of Health
- Deputy Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. During this time, she made contributions in the area of pediatric AIDS.
- Earning a degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health
- Received assignments from the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources
- On one assignment, helped draft legislation for the Organ Transplantation Procurement Act of 1984

Enrique González Martínez, MD (1871-1952)

The uniqueness and greatness of Dr. Martinez was to be found in his extraordinary ability to be a master in the sciences and politics, as well as the arts. A well-known physician with an obstetric specialty, Martinez was a surgeon, professor, honored poet, publisher and government servant. His achievements and accomplishments include a wide range of diversity:



- Professor of Physiology at the Guadalajara School of Medicine
- High-Ranking State Government Official
- Secretary General of Government
- Member of the Mexican Academy
- President of the Youth Ateneo

- Owner/Founder of the magazine Argos; also responsible for the daily newspaper El Imparcial. Director of Pegaso magazine
- Authored 3 recognized books of poetry
- Undersecretary of Public Education and Fine Arts
- State of Puebla: Secretary of Government
- Professor at the School of Higher Studies in French Literature as well as appointed Head of Literature and Grammar Departments
- Professor of Mexican Literature in the National Preparatory School
- Joined Mexican Foreign Service
- While in Mexican Foreign Service he was appointed Mexico's Diplomatic Minister to Chile, Portugal, Spain and Argentina
- Mexican Academy of Language: Member
- Recipient of the Ávila Camacho National Prize of Literature



Dr. Severo Ochoa (1905–1993)

Dr. Severo Ochoa was famous for his work as both a doctor and biochemist. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1959 for synthesizing RNA (ribonucleic acid). Other notable accomplishments and work include:

- New York University School of Medicine: Research Associate as well as a Professor of Biochemistry, Pharmacology and appointed Chairman of the Biochemistry Department
- 1979: Awarded the United States National Medal of Science
- University of Oxford: Nuffield Research Assistant and “Demonstrator”



Dr. Francisco Bravo

Opera Medicinalia was the first medical book published in America (1570) and was written by author Dr. Francisco Bravo. One of the most influential scholars in the history of medicine is Dr. Francisco Bravo. While photographic images of the famous physician are impossible; his legacy is still celebrated at colleges around the world. As the University of Texas at Austin report their project PRIMEROS LIBROS is undertaking the digitization of the historic text. Interestingly, the original book was published only 3 decades after the invention of the printing press. It contains 4 treatises which discuss:

- Epidemiology
- Medicinal Herbs (*Smilax aspera*/Sasparilla root)
- Typhus
- Treatments known as “bloodletting”
- Groundbreaking engravings of the human circulatory system