

PSYCHIATRY @ NJMS

“OUR INCLUSIVENESS IS INTENTIONAL BECAUSE EXCELLENCE REQUIRES A DIVERSE COMMUNITY...”

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | FALL 2017



Nicole Guanci, MD

Assistant Director, Residency Training Program

Growing up in and around Newark as the only girl in a first-generation immigrant family, I learned early on how to advocate for myself and people in need within the community. It is not surprising that I am now a female leading a primarily male Crisis Response Team in the Emergency Department as an attending psychiatrist, addressing behavioral disturbances of the mentally ill and indigent populations. Coming to NJMS at 18 years old and continuing here through medical school and residency, I have had the privilege of belonging to a primarily female class. Now, as an attending in the Department of Psychiatry, I also have the privilege of working in a department that welcomes women in leadership positions. I am hopeful that as one of the upcoming Associate Program Directors of the Psychiatry Residency Program, I will have the opportunity to continue to foster the development of female leadership at NJMS.

Danilo Been Carrasco, MD

PGY IV Resident



Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, being a professional in my culture is a way to give back to your family and to make them proud. Medicine was an altruistic option and it gave me joy and motivation to join various non-profit organizations and volunteer my time.

I was oblivious to the challenges awaiting me when I came to United States from the Caribbean. The language barrier, the food, the culture were all different however having the opportunity to be part of NJMS mitigated these worries. Instead of boundaries, these differences such as being bilingual have proven to be helpful and are a bridge to connect with the large Latino community that we treat. Feeling accepted and supported has made this journey a learning and fulfilling experience.

Noah Villegas, MD

Assistant Director, Residency Training Program

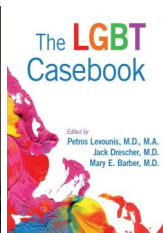


I am originally from New Mexico and came to the east coast after being accepted to NJMS. Coming to the east coast, I was amazed with the amount of diversity in the population. I was also surprised with the small

Hispanic / Latino representation within the medical school class despite the large Hispanic east coast population. However, NJMS provided an open and caring environment and I never felt like a minority. Graduating medical school in 2012, I continued on at NJMS Psychiatry Residency Program. In my last year of residency I was the Chief Resident and graduated residency in 2016. Currently I am an inpatient attending for University Hospital and I will be one of the new incoming Associate Program Directors for the NJMS Psychiatry Residency Program since July 2017.

Petros Levounis, MD, MA

Department Chair / Professor



During medical school, I was mentored by Jonathan Lax, who introduced me to ACT UP and served as my primary advisor for my medical school honors thesis titled: **“How People with HIV/AIDS Alter Clinical Trial Protocols.”** I graduated from Columbia University’s Psychiatry residency training program receiving the National Institute of Mental Health Outstanding Resident Award before completing my fellowship in Addiction Psychiatry at New York University. From 2002 to 2013, I served as director of the Addiction Institute of New York. My academic interests include the use of crystal methamphetamine among gay men & sexual identity in psychotherapy.

About Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) is part of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, one of the country’s largest academic health centers. NJMS is dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care, and community outreach. Some pertinent facts:

- NJMS has 20 academic departments and many world-renowned scientists and doctors.
- In 2015, NJMS was named #1 in the state for NIH funding.
- NJMS is located in Newark, NJ, where African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian/Pacific Islanders comprise more than 90 percent of the city’s population and face many socioeconomic, educational, and health challenges.
- Underrepresented minorities made up 23 percent of the medical school’s enrollment in 2017-2018.
- NJMS ranks in the 80th percentile for underrepresented minority graduates and 85th percentile for minority faculty, according to the 2014 AAMC Missions Management Tool.