

ANESTHESIOLOGY & PAIN MEDICINE

EDI BRIEF SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

This year’s theme for National Hispanic Heritage Month is ***Collective Heritage: Honoring the past, inspiring the future***. As we navigate the complexities that are currently impacting the healthcare system, we want to honor the leadership of Hispanic and Latino providers:

- [Severo Ochoa, MD from Spain](#) won the Nobel Prize for his discovery of an enzyme that synthesizes ribonucleic acid.
- [Helen Rodriguez-Trias, MD from Puerto Rico](#) was the head of Pediatrics at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx and co-founded the Campaign to End Sterilization Abuse which led to strict federal guidelines for consent in 1979.
- [Ildaura Murrillio-Rohde, PhD, RN](#) from Panama was an advocate, nurse, therapist, and educator who founded the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN).

Unfortunately, there are ongoing struggles. In [Washington](#) state, almost 15% of the population identifies as Hispanic. According to data from the [King County Disparities Dashboard](#), Hispanics are 5.4 times more likely to not have health insurance, 2.6 times more likely to not see a doctor, and almost 2 times more likely to have late or no prenatal care in comparison to their White counterparts in King County. Language barriers not only increase the number of missed appointments, but they can also impact different aspects of patient care.

In certain instances, when nurses are gauging adult patients' pain levels using the Numeric Rating Scale or Verbal Descriptor Scale, it is the patients with limited English proficiency (LEP) who have the lowest odds of numeric ratings and receive the fewest amounts of daily opioids to manage pain (Rambachan et al., 2023).

Another concern is communication for families of children with medical complexities (CMC). When communicating with healthcare providers, parents acknowledged that they felt assumptions or bias for using languages other than English, highlighting the importance of language-concordant care, and the need to create processes that will alleviate communication barriers between patients and healthcare providers (Luercio et al., 2024).

Learn more:

- Explore resources for [Hispanic Heritage Month](#), [UW Combined Fund Drive](#), [History](#), [UW OHCE](#), [National Park Service](#), and [Library of Congress](#).
- Harborview Medical Center’s [Community House Calls Program Cultural Mediators](#)
- UW Medicine [Interpreter Services](#)
- Resources for [EthnoMed](#)

Department Highlights

September Grand Rounds Presenters:

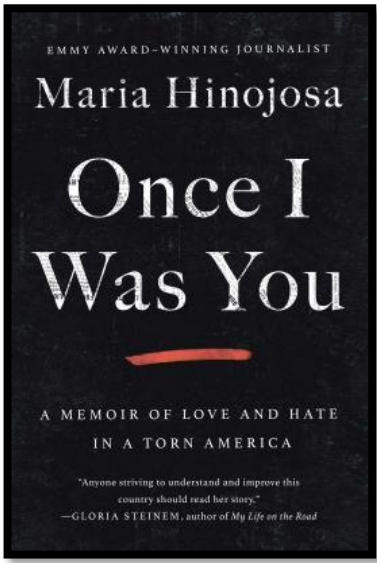
- **September 17:** Kumar G. Belani, MBBS, MS (University of Minnesota Department of Anesthesiology)
- **September 24:** Caitlyn Murray, PhD (Seattle Children’s Hospital)

Welcome Anesthesia Visiting Scholars:

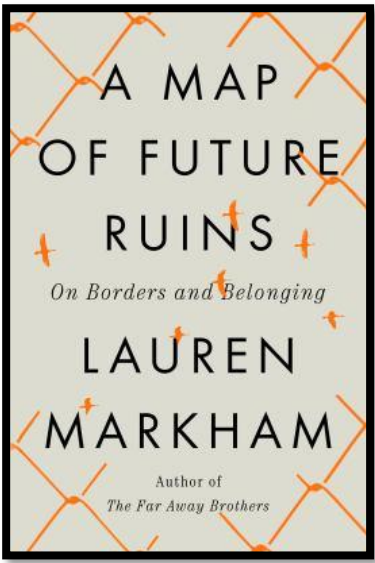
- Marina Sergeevna Levochkina, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine will do a rotation at Harborview (9/22/25-10/17/25).
- Andrew Potyk, Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine will do a rotation at UWMC-Montlake (9/22/25-10/17/25).

Resources

Recommended Reading:



[Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in America](#), Maria Hinojosa



[A Map of Future Ruins: On Borders and Belonging](#), Lauren Markham

Visit [The Whole U](#) for events happening in the community and at UW:

- September 19 (12-12:50pm): [Wellness Connection Series: Mindfulness](#)
- September 25 (12-1pm): [Stronger Together - A UW Approach to Well-being](#)