

# Parent Mentor Learning Center Newsletter



Children's Health

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Hello everyone, our collective work has paid off! I am thrilled to announce the launch of the Parent Mentor Learning Center! The Center builds on the work completed by many of you in the Parent Mentor Learning Collaborative. The Collaborative was funded by **Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health**, and, now, LPFCH has generously provided continuation funding for the creation of a **Parent Mentor Learning Center**. The Center has three primary goals:

- Create greater awareness of the value of parent mentors in healthcare settings
- Promote program standards generated by the Learning Collaborative
- Develop a certification for hospitals integrating these standards into their mentor program

These goals will be accomplished through the creation of a "virtual place" for interested parents and clinicians to share ideas, access resources and learn from each other. Over time, we aim to develop agreed upon definitions for the parent mentor role as well as design a set of program standards.

To learn more about the Parent Mentor Learning Center: <https://pmlc.stanfordchildrens.org>

We're kicking off this initiative with a survey in June that will help us map out the current landscape, identify challenges, and guide the Center's priorities. We want your input! If you're involved in a parent mentor program—or trying to start one—please complete the survey.

To get on the survey list contact: Sandy Orozco at [SOrozco@StanfordChildrens.org](mailto:SOrozco@StanfordChildrens.org)

I look forward to working with fellow travelers dedicated to supporting parent mentors in healthcare settings.



## Staff Introductions



Sandy Orozco is the Learning Center's Project Manager. In this capacity, she will be the point of contact for Learning Center activities. She will set up webinars, podcasts and be available to answer your questions about the Parent Mentor Learning Center. Prior to her role as Project Manager, Sandy worked as a Research Assistant in the Department of Family-Centered Care at Stanford Medicine Children's Health since 2019. Her fluency in Spanish and cultural understanding ensures that family-centered programs at Stanford Children's are responsive to Spanish-speaking families. Sandy is currently pursuing her master's in public health and brings a strong foundation in research and community health to her work, aiming to improve the overall experience for all families at Stanford Children's.



## WINNING MOMENTS

In each PMLC Newsletter we will share a winning moment in Parent Mentorship. In the spotlight for this Newsletter is news from Rady Children's.



**Rady Children's Hospital** San Diego Hematology/Oncology Parent Liaisons Gloria Newell and Judy Wagner joined the team of Dr. Paula Aristizabal, pediatric oncologist at Rady Children's Hospital and UC San Diego, and created **COMPRENDO** (Childhood Malignancy Peer Research Navigation), a pilot program aimed at improving participation in pediatric cancer clinical trials. COMPRENDO is a culturally and linguistically tailored peer-navigation intervention. In this program, parent liaisons with the lived experience of having a child with cancer receive specialized training to support parents of Hispanic children with cancer to help them navigate the cancer diagnosis and the option of participating in a cancer clinical trial.

Based on the success of the pilot program, Dr. Aristizabal and her team at the Peckham Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders were awarded a National Cancer Institute R01 grant. With the new funding, Dr. Aristizabal and her team will expand her research in San Diego and add three new sites:

- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Boston Children's Hospital in Boston
- UCSF/Benioff Children's Hospitals in San Francisco and Oakland
- University of Alabama, Birmingham/Children's of Alabama

The long-term goal of this program is to improve clinical trial participation in pediatric oncology and ultimately, improve clinical outcomes and survival among all children with cancer equitably.

Now, **COMPRENDO** will be able to grow and expand across the country to improve access to excellent care in many diverse communities.

**Do you have a winning moment you're excited about? Please email me, and I'll be sure to include it in a future newsletter!**



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