

# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

## 2020 Hispanic - Latin American Heritage Month



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Canadians of Hispanic and Latin American descent and their achievements and contributions to our Canadian multicultural society.

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## Argentina



### Roxana y Fabian

Professional Tango Dancers

Originally from the city of Buenos Aires in the Buenos Aires neighborhood of Villa Pueyrredón, Fabián is the son of a bandoneonist father and the mother of a tango singer. He studied bandoneon with maestro Carlos Lázzari, theory and singing with maestro Ferruccio Marzán. Roxana daughter of milongueros parents was formed in the dance through the folkloric dances of the early 80's and at the age of 15 and 13, respectively, in the search of their artistic identity, both in the genre of tango and full expression.

### Violeta Borizonit

Artists, Sculptor

Violeta Borisonik was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has a degree in Architecture from the University of Buenos Aires and studied at the National School of Fine Arts. She moves to Canada in 1989. After taking several classes in ceramics and sculpture she registered in the Diploma Program obtaining a degree in Visual Arts. Violeta is the recipient of the Mac Donald Club Scholarship and the "Ottawa School of Art Graduate Achievement".

### Pablo Rodríguez

Minister of Canadian Heritage

Rodríguez was born on June 21, 1967 in San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina. When he was eight, Rodríguez's family fled to Canada after their home was bombed during the Dirty War after his father was repeatedly jailed and tortured for his activism.

Prior to entering politics, Rodríguez, who has a degree in business administration from the University of Sherbrooke, had worked for over twelve years in the fields of public affairs and management of international projects.

Throughout his career, Rodríguez has dedicated much of his time to humanitarian causes. His work particularly focused on helping developing countries and the eradication of poverty. He was the Vice President of Oxfam Québec from 2000 to 2004.

### **Margarita Feliciano**

Feliciano is a poet, critic and literary translator of Italian-Argentine origin living in Canada and supporting the Hispanic community since 1969. Her poetry has appeared in numerous publications throughout Europe and North America.

### **Dr. Alberto J. Aguayo**

**Dr. Alberto J. Aguayo is a neuroscientist whose research gives people suffering from serious head and spinal cord injuries the hope of better lives.** Argentinian-born Aguayo studied medicine at the University of Cordoba Medical School, trained in neurology at the University of Toronto and McGill University and was appointed director of McGill's Centre for Research in Neuroscience (1980).



## **Bolivia**



### **Rosario Arce**

Singer

**Oruro, a city in the Bolivian highlands, saw the birth of a girl who, at an early age,** began to show her first concern: La Musica. His parents, lovers of Bolivian culture, appreciate this success and undertake all their efforts, so that his daughter could be a singer. And this is how Rosario begins to take her first musical steps in Bolivia sharing part of her basic education with musical perfection, studying piano and singing at the connoted National School of Music "Maria Luisa Luzio".

### **Dr. Marco a. Guzman**

**Dr. Marco A. Guzman has served as Executive Director of Frontiers Foundation Inc.** for ten years, having previously served as Program Coordinator. Prior to attendance to St. Francis Xavier University which subsequently awarded him an LL.D., he created Voluntarios en Accion (VEA) in his native Bolivia. VEA has a 36 year record of productive activity relating to the Altiplano's most urgent needs, e.g. thousands of school desks for Aymara children. Having already received the Grand Cross of Bolivia, he had a new high school named after him.

### **Ivar Mendez**

The Bolivian Embassy in Canada nominates philanthropist and pioneer Dr. Ivar Mendez, Director of the Neural Transplantation Laboratory at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. As a clinician, Dr. Ivar Mendez is pioneering the use of robotics in neurosurgery. As a researcher, Dr. Mendez is breaking new ground in the field of neuro-transplantation.

## Marcelo Aliendre

Director of Asset Management, Barrick Gold Corp

Born in Oruro, Bolivia and in Canada since 2013, Marcelo Aliendre is among the most important executives in Canada's mining sector. As the Director of Asset Management at Barrick Gold Corporation, he supports operations globally at several countries around the world, making him a pioneer in this type of business role in large multinational companies by exposing his abilities as a Latin American professional. Marcelo regularly speaks at major international mining forums such as the Brazilian Maintenance Congress, the Operation and Maintenance Congress of Arab Countries, and the 4th World Congress of Maintenance in China, in which he won the "Excellent Paper for Young Author" award.



## Chile



## Tamara Toledo

Director/Curator

Tamara is a Chilean-born Toronto-based curator, arts administrator and visual artist. Toledo is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design in Drawing and Painting and holds an MFA from York University. She is co-founder of the Allende Arts Festival and of LACAP.

## Rodrigo Barreda

Rodrigo Barreda is a Chilean born Toronto-based Canadian graphic artist, art director and arts organizer. He is a graduate of OCAD University in Advertising Art Direction. His work is concerned with the study of political art and design. Barreda is the co-founder of the Allende Arts Festival (2003), Latin American Canadian Art Projects (2005), the Latin American Art Centre Collective (2010) and Sur Gallery (2015).

## Felix Mora

**Hispanic Justice of the Peace in Canada**

Felix Mora was tortured in Chile under the Pinochet regime, came to Canada as a refugee and now imparts justice in the Province of Ontario. He studied in both Chile and Canada and has a specialization in Human Rights and Cultural Policies.

## Luz Bascuñán

Luz Bascuñán graduated as teacher from University of Chile; she received a Master of Arts and pursued doctoral studies in education at the University of Toronto. During the 35 years education career, Luz taught in Chile and in Canada; developed educational programs and conducted education research. Her works have been published in professional and academic publications.



### **Dr. Bernardo Berdichewsky (Ph.D.)**

Dr. Bernardo Berdichewsky was born in Chile in 1924 of European immigrant parents. He was a professor at the National University of Chile and president of the Chilean Anthropological Association. After the 1973 military coup, he came to North America and taught anthropology and sociology at various universities.

### **Oscar A. Jofre Jr.**

Entrepreneur and IT innovator Oscar Jofre developed a voice imprint technology for the legal, medical and dental professions - leading to the creation of the largest value-added reseller network for voice and speech support products in North America. He came to Canada in 1975 and has since accumulated 22 years of senior management experience.



## **Colombia**



### **Giovanni Ruiz**

Musician

Acclaimed Flutist Giovanni offers a refreshing sound with his masterful play of various flutes. He has established himself as a phenomenal musician through noteworthy performances at: The Beaches International Jazz Festival Toronto's First Night, Toronto Fiesta, Mariposa Festival, Festival Mundial de Folklore Drummondville Quebec, Festival of Parry Sound, The International Concert for Peace in Colombia and the World Youth Festival in Russia.

### **Mauricio Ospina**

**Founder of Hispanic Business Alliance**

Mauricio came to Canada from Colombia in 1991 armed only with a high school diploma and zero English. He worked as a cleaner for four years, studied, and became a Senior International Marketing Consultant leading U.S. export initiatives, and a successful real estate agent-investor. Despite his professional success, he's never forgotten his community. He is the reference point and pioneer uniting Hispanic professionals and businesspeople across Canada. His many recognitions include being inducted into the 'Canadian Who is Who' - leading biographical reference that for over a century has listed the most prominent Canadians.

### **Isabel Cuellar**

Director of Mississauga Latin Festival

A Colombian native of Espinal (Tolima) and her family, saw that Mississauga had not made a community activity where Colombians could remember and share with other communities its customs and traditions.

### **Claudia Montoya**

Director of Casa Cultural Colombiana

When Colombian-born Claudia Montoya moved to Canada in 2004, she noticed that while newcomers had specific needs upon entering the country, the support offered to them was almost non-existent, or difficult to access. This experience pushed her to do something about it. By 2006, Montoya had obtained a Community Social Worker Diploma, with the objective of helping newcomers. Since then she has continued to train herself and has been able to help hundreds of immigrant families.

### **Dr. Alex Jadad**

Dr. Jadad's mission is to help improve health for all, through Information Technology.

Born and educated in Colombia, he obtained his medical degree in 1986. At 20 and still a student, he became a leading medical expert on cocaine. In 1990 he joined Oxford University and obtained a doctorate in pain management (one of few doctors in the world with a PhD in knowledge synthesis). In 1995, he moved to Canada holding several research tasks at McMaster University.

### **Adriana Pazos**

Born in Colombia, Adriana is a community leader and a professional event planner.

She is very active in the Latin American community, supporting and outreaching to all communities to promote the Latin American culture. She is the co-founder with Jose Pelaez of the project "What did you bring", a compilation of stories of new Canadians when arriving in Canada.

### **Alvaro Pombo**

Entrepreneur, Founder and CEO of ProntoForms

Alvaro Pombo is one of Canada's great technology leaders, and the only Hispanic in Canada who has founded a publicly traded company. As the CEO of ProntoForms, he inspires Canadian entrepreneurs and our Hispanic community. In 2001, he founded ProntoForms, an award-winning mobile productivity app. ProntoForms now has 3,000 clients with 65,000 subscribers in 30+ countries and 100+ employees.

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### Mario Guillombo

Former Master Ship Colombian marine Mario Guillombo came to Canada in 2001 determined to assist those with no status and to help stop human rights abuses. A lawyer with studies in Social Work and Psychology, Guillombo was a researcher for the book *Job Contract vs. Job Reality*, written by Dr. Rafael Ospina in Colombia.



## Cuba



### Mario Perez

Mario's story reads like the script of a Hollywood movie. Seeking a better life for his family, this Cuban university professor and software developer began his Canadian journey in 1992, homeless at a Salvation Army shelter.

### Hilario Duran

Musician, Juno award winner 2005

Hilario Durán was born in Havana, Cuba in 1953. A multiple-award-winning pianist, composer, arranger, orchestra leader, educator and recording artist, Duran started playing the piano by ear when he was eight years old.

He studied at Cuba's Amadeo Roldan Conservatory of Music and has since played around the world with Jazz and Salsa legends such as Dizzy Gillespie, Chucho Valdes, Paquito D'Rivera, Oscar D'Leon, Demetrio Muñiz (former director of the Buena Vista Social Club), Arturo Sandoval and others.

### Christian Izquierdo

Christian Izquierdo arrived from Cuba 14 years ago. Today, he is the CEO of DevFacto Technologies, Alberta's fastest-growing company and one of best to work for in Alberta. He graduated with honours, Computer Science, from the University of Havana in 1997. In 2007, with only a \$1,000 investment, Izquierdo co-founded technology consulting company DevFacto Technologies and made \$29,000 with two employees. In 2009-2010, revenues grew to \$1.3 million with assets valued at \$600,000.



## Dominican Republic



### Dr. Rafael E. Castan

Dr. Rafael Edilio Castan is widely credited as a real hero having saved the lives of more than 1,400 people – and counting. This 77 years old cardiologist, who practices at the Jean-Talon Hospital in Montreal, has been recycling old pacemakers for 30 years and making them available for free to patients in poorer countries. The initiative is credited with saving the lives of more than 1,400 people.



# El Salvador



## **Juan Carranza, LLB**

Born in El Salvador, he is the first Central American called to the Law Society of Upper Canada. Carranza arrived in Canada at 16 and obtained his law degree in 1992 from York's Osgoode Hall, plus an MBA from Queen's.

## **Veronica Meza**

Singer & songwriter

Veronica Meza is a Toronto-based Pop and Latin singer/songwriter. Her most recent production, the "Consolation" EP, marks her debut in the English-language pop market. "Consolation" contains three songs that were entirely written, arranged and produced by Meza and demonstrates her musical sensibility as a songwriter within the Pop genre. "Consolation", also the name of the first single, is an up-tempo, Ska-infused dance track which can be sonically likened to songs by Bruno Mars.

## **Julio Torres-Recinos**

Dr. Julio Torres-Recinos, born in El Salvador, received his PhD from the University of Toronto. He is an Associate Professor of Spanish and Literature at the University of Saskatchewan. Accomplished poet and short-story writer, Torres-Recinos has published five poetry books. His poetry and short stories have appeared in journals and anthologies in Canada, Spain, Peru, Mexico and the U.S. He has given poetry readings in Canada, Germany, Italy, U.S. Costa Rica and El Salvador.

## **Luis Carrillos**

Luis Carrillos has worked across Canada as educator and volunteer. Since 1994, the thrust of his work has been with the Hispanic Development Council on youth gangs. Projects include: Identity Politics Among Latino Youths in Toronto; Youth Gangs: To See Them Talk Is To Hear Them Walk; MEXUSCAN (Mexico, U.S, Canada): A tri-national research on youth and employment; How to... handbooks I and II: guides for parents with adolescent children; and lectures at York, Guelph and Michigan universities, and George Brown College.

## **Dr. Hugo de Burgos Henriquez**

Anthropologist, filmmaker, activist and professor UBC. After his mother was kidnapped and disappeared in the 80s, Dr. Hugo De Burgos fled El Salvador and came to Canada, 18 years old and alone. A multiple award-winning anthropology professor/researcher at the University of British Columbia, filmmaker, and a respected international activist, his latest recognition is the Paul Farmer Award for outstanding anthropology teaching.



# Ecuador



## Cesar Palacio

Cesar Palacio is a former Toronto city councillor for Ward 17 Davenport (representing one of the two Davenport wards). He is the first Hispanic person to be elected to Toronto's City Council.

## Lita Gonzalez-Dickey

For almost 30 years, Lita Gonzalez-Dickey has been the Spanish Community Relations Officer of the Toronto Catholic District School Board. During these years she has been instrumental in the admission of thousands of children of Hispanic origin into Toronto's Catholic schools.

## Elvira Sanchez

Founder of The Hispanic Congress

**Mrs. Sánchez de Malicki is the business administrator for the Malicki & Malicki Law Firm** and a Member of the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board. She is a respected community leader, holds an Executive MBA from Queen's University and has served in numerous government and community organizations as well as in the private sector, including the Boards of Telefilm Canada, the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, the National Association of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada, the Federal and Ontario Councils on Multiculturalism and Citizenship and Harbourfront Centre. **Elvira was the founder and first president of the Canadian Hispanic Congress.**

## Patricio Chiza

Musician founder of Imbayakunas

Mr. Chiza is the musical director and founder of The Imbayakunas Music Group from Ecuador. "I come from a strong and vibrant Native Andean culture. Both my mother and father raised myself and my siblings to understand and appreciate our traditions. Although there was and still exists racism against Native people, my parents never relinquished their pride and dignity in the face of adversity and discrimination."

## Esteban Lasso

**Ecuadorian-born Esteban Lasso has worked with Transforming Faces Worldwide (TFW) since 2001.** Transforming Faces Worldwide is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the availability and quality of medical treatment and care of children and adults with left cleft and palate and related cranium facial disorders.



### **Johnny Campuzano**

Constable Johnny Campuzano has dedicated his life to being a positive role model, leader and team player. He knew what he wanted to achieve from a young age. Armed with a diploma in law enforcement from Sheridan College, in 2001 became a police constable with York Regional Police.



## **Guatemala**



### **Alfredo Caxaj**

Alfredo Caxaj is the founder and producer of Sunfest, the second largest music festival in Canada. Every July, Sunfest attracts more than 225,000 people contributing millions to London's economy. The Globe and Mail named the festival one of the country's 100 best summer events.

### **Dr. Carlos Gonzales Prado**

**Philosopher, Fellow, Royal Society of Canada**

A native of Guatemala, Carlos Gonzalez Prado immigrated to Canada in 1965. After completing his PhD in 1970, he began an illustrious career of teaching, research, and service in philosophy at Queen's University. He has held two visiting Fellowships at Princeton University. In 2013, he was named Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the nation's highest recognition for achievements in arts and humanities.



## **Mexico**



### **Dr. Francisco Diaz Mitoma**

**Dr. Francisco Diaz Mitoma is Chief, Regional Virology Laboratory at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and professor in the Departments of Microbiology & Immunology, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and Paediatrics at the University of Ottawa.** Diaz-Mitoma received his medical degree from the University of Guadalajara in Mexico. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Medical Sciences (Virology) and a fellowship in Medical Microbiology from the University of Alberta, with a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the University of Manitoba.

### **Esmeral Enrique**

**Dancer and choreographer**

Esmeralda Enrique is one of the most celebrated Flamenco dance artists in Canada. Lauded internationally as a choreographer and teacher, she is the founder of the Academy of Spanish Dance and the Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company, renowned for its innovation, versatility and artistic excellence.

### **Dr. Francisco Ucan Marin**

Biology writer, scientist, and entrepreneur

**Dr. Francisco Ucan-Marin is a Mexican native Maya, a writer, scientist, and entrepreneur** with his consulting firm, Aquaponika. He works as Senior Science Advisor for the Government of Canada dealing with Biodiversity, Oceans, Wildlife, and Ecotoxicology. His scientific contributions are only matched by his volunteerism; for over a decade he's given his free time to strengthen technological ties between Canada and Mexico.

### **Amanda Martinez**

**Singer & Songwriter**

Amanda Martinez is a Canadian based singer/songwriter whose music exultingly blends her unique Mexican and South African roots with flamenco soul.

**Her third and latest CD "Mañana" was helmed by GRAMMY-winning producer Javier Limón.** Limón, whose production credits include acclaimed singers such as Buika, Mariza and Diego el Cigala, hails Martinez as "one of the greatest voices in the world." 'Mañana' and her previous solo albums have earned her three Latin Jazz Artist of the Year nominations at Canada's National Jazz Awards.

### **Dr. Carlos Escobedo**

Nanotechnology Researcher, Queen's University

**Mexican-born Dr. Carlos Escobedo, a young pioneer in the emerging field of nanotechnology-based sensing,** tackles problems of great scientific and social importance. He has developed novel, patented, biomedical technologies including a bedside real-time sensor for different diseases, such as urinary tract infection, and a novel technology for early detection of ovarian cancer (deemed "the most lethal gynecologic malignancy"), for which detection at symptomatic stages is usually fatal.



## **Nicaragua**



### **Guillermo Schible**

Lawyer and co-founder, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Ontario. Nicaraguan-born Guillermo Schible arrived in Canada in 1989 at age 12. He graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School and was called to the Bar in 2005. Despite his success as a lawyer, he has always given his free time to community causes.



## Panama



### **Hon. Guillermo Rishchynski**

Mr. Guillermo Enrique Rishchynski Oller is Canadian Ambassador to Mexico. Mr. Rishchynski joined the Canadian Foreign Service in 1982, after a career in the private sector in marketing and project management in Africa and Latin America.



## Paraguay



### **Dr. Luis Fernando Villalba**

Paraguayan-born Dr. Luis Fernando Villalba is a respected lecturer/researcher on development, global and green business in the Americas and Europe. As Associate Dean of Business at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, BC, he designed and is now deploying the first graduate programs specialized in Green Business **Management and Global Business Management. For over a decade he taught** business, economics and Latin American Management at Vancouver's Capilano University.



## Peru



### **Isabel Cardenas**

Singer and event producer

Isabel is a Social Worker, a Professional Singer, a Radio Host with a Spanish Radio Station and Events Production Manager.

### **Dr. Juan Carlos Zuniga-Pflücker**

For the thousands of people who face trying to recover from the immunity-depleting effects of cancer treatments or who will suffer from AIDS in the future, the research of Dr. Juan Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker offers a measure of hope.

### **Dr. Raquel del Carpio-O'Donovan**

A native of Peru, Dr. del Carpio-O'Donovan came to Canada to study radiology in 1976. Today, she is Professor of Radiology, Vice Chair of Radiology at McGill University and Associate Chief of the McGill University Hospitals Radiology Department and an Osler Fellow. She has mentored hundreds of medical students from around the world and offers advice to young, professional immigrants who wish to start practicing in Canada and/or begin a new life here.

### **Fernando Mata**

Demographer, Author and Professor, University of Ottawa

Fernando Mata is the most recognized Hispanic social demographer in Canada and one of the top in the country. Born and educated in Peru (B.A. Sociology), he obtained a Masters in Population Studies from the University of Western Ontario as well as a PhD in Social Demography and Ethnic Studies from York University.

### **Dr. Jorge Burneo**

Born and trained in medicine in Peru, Dr. Burneo is already a Canadian pioneer in epilepsy. He completed his residency training in neurology and a fellowship epilepsy in the US, while simultaneously obtaining a Masters in Public Health. In 2004, he joined Western University, where he currently is a Professor of Neurology, CoDirector of the Epilepsy Program and Director of the Electroencephalography (EEG) laboratory. Nationally and internationally, he is the President of the Canadian League Against Epilepsy; member of the North American Commission of the International League against Epilepsy (ILAE); ILAE representative at the Pan American Health Organization; and the only Canadian on the Board of the American Epilepsy Society.

### **Jose A. Castillo**

Peruvian-born Jose Castillo (LLB, MBA, GMP) is a Managing Director and leader of KPMG's Global Quality and Risk Management Tax group, influencing 35,000 Tax professionals worldwide and helping strengthen KPMG's reputation as the most trustworthy firm consistently achieving the highest standards of quality, ethics and integrity. Despite his busy schedule, including extensive traveling, he volunteers promoting Hispanic advancement, supporting persons with disabilities and fundraising for cancer research.

### **Rosa Galvez**

Rosa Galvez is the first and only Hispanic speaking person ever appointed to the Senate of Canada. She is one of Canada's leading experts in pollution control and its effect on human health, and has provided her technical expertise to several national and international agencies. Originally from Peru, she was appointed to the Senate in 2016 representing Québec (Bedford). She has a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from McGill University and has been a professor at Université Laval à Québec since 1994- where she headed the Civil and Water Engineering Department from 2010 to 2016.



## Puerto Rico



### Guillermo Silva-Marin

Since arriving in Canada in 1969, Puerto Rican-born Guillermo Silva-Marin has been advancing the interpretative arts in Canada. He is Founder/General Director, Toronto Operetta Theatre (1985); General Director, Opera in Concert (1994); Founder/ Artistic Director, Summer Opera Lyric Theatre (1988); Lecturer/Stage Director, Opera McGill, McGill University, (1999-2006); Interim Director, Opera McGill (2006- 2007); Teacher, Spanish diction, Royal Conservatory of Music (2004 2009); Lecturer, Interpretative Studies, York University. Silva-Marin has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Puerto Rico and a Diploma/Opera School from the University of Toronto.

### Jose Suarez

Puerto Rican-born José J. Suárez is Senior Vice President, Global Mining and Metallurgy, at SNC-Lavalin, Canada's largest engineering firm and one of the world's leading construction groups. A 28-year industry veteran who has worked in 20 countries, Suárez manages business development within his division, globally. Last year alone, he and his team secured more than \$16 billion in just three projects, adding jobs to the Canadian economy.



## Spain



### Fernando Valladares

In 1981, Fernando Valladares, brought to life his dream of uniting all Spanish speaking groups in our community in a celebration of their cultural roots, while working at Toronto City Hall as Executive Assistant to Ex-City Councillor Tony O'Donohue. Hispanic Fiesta has become the largest Hispanic cultural event in Canada. In 1998, Valladares joined Lido Chilelli to create and produce Corso Italia Festival & Taste of little Italy and bring a celebration of community and ethnic diversity to St. Clair Avenue West and College Street. While producing festivals is a focus for Valladares, he is also committed to assisting his community. In 1981, Valladares co-founded 'Las Flores Charitable Foundation' which assisted new Hispanic immigrants. He also serves as the President of 'Las Flores Non-Profit Housing Corporation'. He has worked on several campaigns directed at aiding natural disaster victims in Spanish-speaking countries. Valladares is an accomplished writer, producer and publisher and has worked on a variety of projects in radio, television and print. His devotion to community has garnered him numerous awards, including the Volunteer Award from the Province of Ontario, a Citation from the Spanish Government and Canada's Birthday Achievement Award among many others.



### **Laura Fernandez**

Singer Song Writer

Born in Madrid, Spain, based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada: singer, songwriter, pianist, music producer, painter, award-winning illustrator and designer, radio host/producer. Laura was born in Madrid into a family that boasted Laura's great grandfather as the mayor. She lived in Switzerland as a child, and her parents migrated to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where she spent her youth. Laura's father was an architect, engineer and a painter, and as a result, Laura grew up in a household where art, creativity and culture were valued and encouraged.

### **Dr. Federico Allodi**

Born in Spain, Dr. Allodi studied medicine at the Universities of Granada and Madrid. He specialized in psychiatry in London, England and at the University of Toronto where he was professor of psychiatry for more than 30 years until his retirement in 2000.

### **Dr. M. Carmen Romero**

Spain-born Dr. Maria Carmen Romero studied at the University Complutense in Madrid, majoring in Psychology and Educational Sciences. She was granted a fellowship by the Canada Council for Arts and Humanities to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, and continued her postdoctoral research at York analyzing the positive effects of bilingualism in the early development of literacy.

### **Isaac Garcia-Sitton**

Born in Barcelona and raised in Panama, Isaac Garcia-Sitton is a respected leader in the Higher Education sector and seasoned MBA with over 15 years' experience in international relations and business development. Having relocated to Canada in 2007 as the Consul General of Panama in Montreal, he is currently the Director of International Education & English Language Institute (YUELI) at York University. YUELI is the largest university provider of Academic English training in Canada, with an annual enrollment of 3,500 students from over 50 countries.



## **Uruguay**



### **Alex Barroti**

Serial tech entrepreneur, CEO TouchBistro

While everyone talks about the need for entrepreneurship among immigrants, Uruguayan-Canadian Alex Barroti is busy doing it. He's founded four technology companies, employed hundreds of people many Hispanics, and continues to help brand Canada as an innovation nation made by immigrants.

### **Eduardo Canel**

Eduardo Canel is Associate Professor of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and International Development Studies in the Department of Social Science at York University. He received the prestigious York University Teaching-Award in 1998 and mention in the "Most Popular Professors List" in The Maclean's Guide to Canadian Universities in 2000 and 2001.

### **Dr. Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts,**

Associate Professor and researcher, Wilfrid Laurier University U.

A Wilfrid Laurier University professor since 1994, Mercedes has focused her life on improving teaching and learning in higher education and researching topics such as exile and the South American diaspora. She arrived to Canada in 1976 with a Teaching Certificate from her native Uruguay.



## **Venezuela**



### **Dr. Sophie Lavieri**

Chemist Sophie Lavieri came to Canada in 2000 and was quickly hired at Simon Fraser University (SFU). The hiring committee was impressed by her innovative and interactive style of teaching, and she beat out native English speakers from Harvard and other top universities. She is now an award-winning senior lecturer at the university.

### **Dr. Alicia Viloria-Petit**

Cancer researcher and professor

A Guelph University professor since 2009, Dr. Alicia Viloria-Petit has dedicated 25 years of her life to cancer research and her findings have been cited over 2,000 times. She obtained both her Licentiate in Biology and her Masters in Immunology in her native country of Venezuela. After an internship at the laboratory of Dr. Robert Kerbel -- where she ultimately developed her PhD -- she was recruited to the University of Toronto in 1997. This was followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Institute in Toronto.

Note: Apologies if we missed other Canadians of Hispanic and Latin American descent. Please email us their names and website/social media and their contributions to [info@hispaniccanadianarts.org](mailto:info@hispaniccanadianarts.org) so they can be included in our online booklet.



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The Hispanic Canadian Arts & Cultural Association is a non-profit organization that celebrates and promotes the Hispanic - Latin American heritage and culture found in Canada.

THANK YOU

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