

Toxicologist recognized for her excellence in clinical education ^[1]

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Dallas, TX - Toxicologist Dr. Larissa Velez, Professor of Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medicine Residency Program Director at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has been selected as the inaugural holder of the Michael P. Wainscott, M.D. Professorship in Emergency Medicine.

The Professorship was created with an endowment established to honor the memory of Dr. Wainscott, who headed UT Southwestern's Emergency Medicine Residency Program before his death in 2012 at the age of 56 after a long illness.

Under Dr. Wainscott's leadership, UT Southwestern's program emerged as one of the nation's great emergency medicine residency programs that has trained more than 200 emergency medicine physicians, many of whom practice in North Texas. Dr. Wainscott is remembered as an inspirational leader, a tireless patient advocate, and a passionate teacher.

"I am extremely proud to have Dr. Larissa Velez as the inaugural holder of the Wainscott Professorship in Emergency Medicine," said Department of Emergency Medicine Chair Dr. Deborah Diercks. "Dr. Velez has been at UT Southwestern since she started her toxicology fellowship here in 1999. She is an excellent clinician-educator who rapidly established her niche within our residency team.

"Dr. Velez embodies all the qualities that Dr. Wainscott valued: She is an excellent educator, a compassionate clinician, and an active member of the UT Southwestern Medical School and our campus community," Dr. Diercks added.

"I'm honored to receive the Michael P. Wainscott, M.D. Professorship in Emergency Medicine [3]," said Dr. Velez, who came to UT Southwestern as a clinical toxicology fellow following her residency training. "I knew Dr. Wainscott since 1999 when I arrived at UT Southwestern. He was always a role model to me. It was devastating when he passed away, but I am very proud to continue his mission and vision for Emergency Medicine at UT Southwestern," she said.

Dr. Velez graduated from the University of Puerto Rico and completed medical school and training in emergency medicine at the Medical Sciences Campus there before being selected for a UT Southwestern fellowship in toxicology at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

After finishing her fellowship, Dr. Velez joined the UT Southwestern faculty. Besides teaching here, she also cares for patients at Parkland's Emergency Department. Dr. Velez also serves as a clinical toxicology staff member at the North Texas Poison Center, consulting with patients from all campus hospitals.

By Deborah Wormser [4]

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- Dra. Larissa Vélez [7]

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