

Humans of CDI

Featuring Giovanni (Vanni) Rodriguez, MD

Emergency Medicine (PGY 3)

Vice Chair, CDI Resident and Fellow Committee

Giovanni (Vanni) Rodriguez, MD is PGY-3 EM resident and rising Chief Resident at Harvard's Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency program, who works clinically at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. Identifying as a first-generation Mexican American, Vanni moved to the US when she was just 6 years old.



As an MS4, Vanni had the opportunity to rotate in the MGH/BWH system as a Sub-I and fell in love with the institution, its culture and the welcoming nature of the faculty and staff. Most importantly, Vanni loved the Center for Diversity and Inclusion at Mass General for being a resource for those underrepresented in medicine (UiM) like herself.

Now Vanni serves as the Vice Chair for [CDI's Resident and Fellow Committee](#). When asked what she hopes to accomplish, Vanni shared that she hopes "to continue to build our CDI community and create a family away from home. I want to ensure that we highlight and foster the wonderful community we have."

Keep reading to learn more about Vanni, what drew her to the RFC, and her advice for UiM trainees.

How have you been involved in the RFC and what led you to join the board?

I first learned of the RFC when I was a visiting student doing a rotation with the VCP program and felt very welcomed when I attended the summer picnic. As an intern the CDI offered a space and community outside of my department that I really needed as the only UiM in my residency class. I joined the RFC as the public relations co-chair, with the hope to continue to work on our community building and recruitment to MGH, and now I serve as the Vice Chair.

What excites you most about being RFC Vice Chair?

I love the people that I get to work with in the RFC, and all the other trainees I get to interact with. Most exciting time is our socials or holiday party, where I get to catch up with trainees and continue to build on relationships/community.

When you think about your experience with CDI and the RFC, what's your proudest moment?

The best time is the welcome picnic where we get to welcome our new trainees, as we meet many of them briefly during interview season, it's amazing to see them here in Boston and get to know them.

If you were to give one piece of advice to our UiM trainees, what would it be?

Residency is hard but remember that it takes a village!

What don't people know about you? What would people be surprised to learn about you?

I used to draw portraits for high school donors and was paid – so technically a paid artist. I still like to draw and paint when I can.

How has this institution changed since you arrived?

I have seen a lot of changes around equity and the great work of the CDI with an increase in our UiM trainees from 15% when I started to almost a third now, I am very excited for the continued growth and diversity in our institution.

What are you excited about?

I am excited to be the Chair of RFC next year and hope that we can continue to build our community!

Do you have a favorite quote?

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”- President Obama

What place(s) have you lived in?

As a kid I lived in a small town of in Zacatecas, Mexico, the town size was 200 people and the ranch I lived in is called El Alacran - which means the scorpion because there is so many of them there