

Faculty Focus: Francisco Cartujano Barrera, M.D.

What does your research focus on?

My research focuses on how to prevent and quit tobacco use among underserved and underrepresented populations (e.g., Latino and Black individuals, people living with HIV, people living in low- and middle-income countries, etc.) via technology solutions (e.g., text messages, wearable devices). This work is guided by Community Advisory Boards that represent the different populations and ensure that their perspectives are incorporated on all aspects of the studies.



Why did you choose to do research in public and community health?

As a Latino immigrant, and a medical doctor, I have an unwavering commitment to addressing health-related disparities. During my educational and professional experiences, I have been trained on tobacco dependence treatments among underserved and underrepresented populations. My training has led to a commitment to further understand how various factors may contribute to barriers in tobacco prevention and cessation as well as to directly address those barriers via community-based participatory research.

What do you enjoy most about University of Rochester?

My colleagues. I love my job because my colleagues and I are motivated by the same vision to eliminate health-related disparities. This creates a genuine and collaborative environment in which a spirit of cooperation and shared goals grows.

What opportunities are there for students to engage in your projects, both current and future?

We (I am not an "I" person; my amazing mentors, research staff, students and I make a team) have different ongoing research projects on tobacco cessation and prevention. Some projects are in the development phase (we are creating new interventions/programs), some are in the implementation phase (we are enrolling new participants and/or conducting follow-up assessments), and some are in the analysis phase (we have data to analyze and research papers to write). We are always looking to engage potential team members in our different projects. If you are interested our research, please reach out via email.