



UConn HEALTH



*Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs
John & Valerie Rowe Endowment Fund*

Bridge to the Future Science Mentoring Program Conference

April 21, 2018

Keynote Speaker

Jonathan J. Nunez, M.D.
UConn School of Medicine – Class of 2008

Jonathan J. Nunez, M.D., commonly referred to as JJ, was raised in Enfield, Connecticut. He matriculated to the University of Connecticut with an interest in becoming a veterinarian. Fortuitously, he had the opportunity to participate in a number of summer programs through the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs, which gave him his first exposure to the medical field and UConn Health. It was through these programs that he found mentors and exposure to the health field. His involvement with these programs began when he enrolled at the University of Connecticut in 1999. He participated in the Pre College Enrichment Program the summer of 1999, the Clinical College Enrichment Program at UConn Health the summer of 2000, the Summer Research Fellowship Program the summer of 2002, the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program MCAT Prep Track the summer of 2003, and the Medical/Dental Preparatory Program BMS Track the summer of 2004. Dr. Nunez then matriculated at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in 2004 where he enjoyed his experiences serving underserved communities in Hartford, Connecticut. He did his Internal Medicine Residency with the Yale-Primary Care Program. During that time, he explored his love for Infectious Diseases and Addiction Medicine. Dr. Nunez had many great teachers, made many great friends, saw many diverse disease presentations, but most importantly, met his wife, Dr. Alia Chisty. He took a break from clinical care for two years and worked as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in California. During that time, Dr. Nunez investigated outbreaks in California ranging from hantavirus at Yosemite National Park, mumps on a college campus, and tuberculosis outbreaks amongst migrant farmworkers. He learned a lot about epidemiology and community health during that time and furthered his training by completing an Infectious Disease Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Through all his training, his drive to help serve the underserved always remained and he decided to stay in Philadelphia to work with Philadelphia FIGHT. FIGHT is a health center providing primary care for patients living with HIV. Dr. Nunez also works with adolescents in providing primary care, curing patients with Hepatitis C, providing transgendered care, and prescribing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent patients from contracting HIV. As an Infectious Disease Physician, Dr. Nunez continues to attend inpatient services at the University of Pennsylvania Health System where he is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine. His greatest love is spending time with his family – wife, Dr. Alia Chisty, son, Atticus, and soon to be born bundle of joy. Dr. Nunez loves cooking, gardening, reading, running, and superheros!! However, most importantly he is always available to help provide advice and mentorship to any level of learners interested in medicine.

