

Yamilé Molina, PhD, MPH, MS is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Community Health Sciences at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). Their training includes graduate degrees in psychology and epidemiology from Tulane University (MS), UIC (MPH), and the University of Washington (UW; PhD) as well as postdoctoral training in cancer disparities and health services research from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and UW. Dr. Molina's research interests concern leveraging individual, social network, and community assets to reduce cancer care disparities, with a focus on Latinx, African American, and rural populations. For example, recent studies have quantified breast cancer interventions' spill-over effects throughout participants' networks (K01CA193918, PI: Molina; R21CA215252, Contact MPI: Molina). These efforts have resulted in multiple awards, including the National Minority Quality Forum's 40 under 40 Leaders in Minority Health Award (2017), an American Cancer Society's Calle/Rodriguez Memorial Minority Travel Award (2018), and American Association for Cancer Research's Minority & Minority Serving Institution Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research Awards (2017, 2019).

In terms of service, Dr. Molina is deeply committed to multi-layered, innovative strategies that result in a robust community infrastructure for cancer prevention and control. As Vice Chair (2017-2018) and Chair of the ASPO Health Disparities Special Interest Group (SIG; 2018-2020), Dr. Molina fostered a sense of community and provided leadership opportunities for early/mid-level investigators and ASPO student members (e.g., co-development of the SIG Leadership Council, trainee first authorship for ASPO CEBP commentaries). Dr. Molina further increased ASPO members' visibility within cancer prevention and control communities throughout the year (e.g., celebration of papers/grants via electronic newsletters, competitive webinar "lightning" talks); and enhanced the SIG's visibility by promoting cancer disparities-related programming (e.g., SIG members' poster and oral presentations, SIG breakfast sessions) delivered at ASPO annual meetings. As ASPO Director-at-Large during and beyond the era of COVID, Dr. Molina would concentrate on: 1) multi-tiered approaches to promote ASPO's mission and members (e.g., interactive virtual platforms, tailored communications); and, 2) novel efforts to optimize the exchange and translation of cancer prevention and control research to multi-sectoral audiences, with a focus on underserved and resilient communities.