

# Lilia Cervantes, MD

Dr. Lily Cervantes is the Director of Immigrant Health and an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Dr. Cervantes received her undergraduate degree at CU Boulder and completed her medical degree and internal medicine residency at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Cervantes is recognized for spearheading an innovative change to a Medicaid payment rule in Colorado to give undocumented patients with kidney failure access to life-saving hemodialysis. The collaborative effort came after the passing of her patient and friend, Hilda, a young mother of two boys who was ineligible for routine dialysis due to her undocumented status. Through strategic documentation and dissection of the enormous human and economic costs of the status quo, Dr. Cervantes conducted research, developed a coalition of allies, and a policy remedy to save others like Hilda. The efforts have garnered national attention and partnerships, leading in turn, to endeavors to enable routine dialysis for undocumented patients in several other states. Following this defining experience, Dr. Cervantes' work has focused on eliminating structural racism in kidney health disparities using mixed-methods research. Dr. Cervantes has received over 15 awards for her service to her community and is a member of nine civic and community activity boards.