

17th WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

USF INTERNAL MEDICINE & PEDIATRIC DIVISIONS OF ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

This newsletter is to introduce you to Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD, a valued faculty member, who joined the Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, in 2013.



*Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD
Assistant Professor of Medicine*



*Dr. Camoretti-Mercado's family: Back: Ricardo, David (pasted), Tom, Antonio.
Front: Miriam, Blanca, Araceli.*

Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD, MBAIS was born in Peru and moved as a toddler to Argentina where she received her BS, MS, and PhD degrees in Biochemistry from the University of Buenos Aires. She came with a highly competitive postdoctoral award from the Argentina National Research Council to train in Molecular Biology at The University of Chicago. She was inspired and feels proud that Argentina, still a developing country when she emigrated, was home of two Nobel Laureates in Physiology of Medicine, one in Chemistry, and two in Peace. She joined the faculty at The University of Chicago in 1995, first in the Section of Cardiology and then in Pulmonary and Critical Care. She was recruited to USF as an assistant professor in 2013.

Dr. Camoretti-Mercado's interest is to translate discoveries into potential treatments focusing on asthma, smooth muscle biology, and bitter taste receptors. She has cloned genes, developed cell and animal models of respiratory diseases, and recently received a Master's in Business Analytics and Information Systems to gain expertise in data mining and model forecasting. Her work has been supported by grants from public, private, national, and foreign agencies, as well as industry, and has been published in many prestigious scientific journals. She serves as a reviewer of federal, state, and foundations grants, manuscripts, and scientific abstracts, and sits on various awards committees and editorial boards.

Invitations to speak at academic institutions and conferences all over the world have given her the opportunity to appreciate cultural diversity and the awareness of local and global inequalities, which have kept alive her sense of service, advocacy, and action, curiosity and learning. She serves the international professional and patient lung community through leadership roles in the American Thoracic Society (including being finalist for Secretary Treasurer in the path to become President), and actively participated in the LAM Foundation, the American Heart Association, and the American Lung Association. She is dedicated to educating, training, and mentoring basic scientists and physician scientists, and tutoring underrepresented minorities and K-8 students of immigrant families in her parish.

Dr. Camoretti-Mercado is married to Thomas Scheiber and they have five young adult children. She enjoys nature, reading, and talking to relatives and friends from Peru, Argentina, and Chicago.

With warm regards,

Richard F. Lockey, MD
Distinguished University Health Professor
Joy McCann Culverhouse Chair in Allergy
and Immunology
Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics & Public Health
Director, Division of Allergy and Immunology
Department of Internal Medicine

Jolan Walter, MD, PhD
Robert A. Good Endowed Chair in Immunology
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine
Chief, Division of Allergy and Immunology
Department of Pediatrics