

**2017 Caregiver Award  
Jacqueline Casillas, MD**

Jacqueline Casillas, MD is the director of UCLA's Life After Cancer Clinic and is a renowned leader in the relatively new field of specialized follow-up care for childhood cancer survivors. The urgent need for her work emerged in tandem with remarkable advances in medicine; nearly 80 percent of all pediatric cancer patients now will survive past five years.

Survivors typically begin their long-term follow-up care at the Life After Cancer Clinic at this five-year milestone and two years after completing therapy. The team helps these young people deal with a variety of issues and challenges known as "late effects" that can include cardiac problems, learning disabilities, growth and fertility problems, psychosocial difficulties, and even another cancer, all of which complicate the already difficult transitions that are part of growing up.

In addition to the Clinic, Dr. Casillas serves as a medical liaison for Padres Contra Cáncer (Parents Against Cancer), an organization that brings together children, families, healthcare professionals and community leaders to provide educational and emotional support services in a program that is culturally relevant for the Latino childhood cancer population.

She remains dedicated to her research on childhood cancer survivorship as well, including the study of access to follow-up care for adolescent and young adult survivors with a focus on minority populations and quality of life. This work enables her to help people all over the world, the vast majority of whom she will never even meet.

Dr. Casillas, who completed medical school at UCLA, was the first member of her family to attend college. She also is the mother of a preschool daughter, and credits a number of female scientist mentors with showing her how to successfully combine the roles of clinician, researcher, educator and parent.