

Maria de Lourdes Sturchler, MD, EdD

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Maria is an LFSD parent since 2022; her daughter attends TPS B and her son will join LFSD in February 2023. Originally from Madrid, Spain, she grew up among many cultures as the daughter of a Colombian mother and Portuguese-African father, and is married to a Frenchman.

She is a first-generation college graduate and an experienced former educator. Maria earned master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics education and educational leadership, respectively, while teaching mathematics full-time. She has a diverse background serving a spectrum of students in an urban Title I school and later at a small, independent school for academically gifted children. Her doctoral dissertation addressed the gender gap in STEM fields and rekindled her desire to become a physician.

A previously avid runner and cyclist, Maria was a 3-time Ironman competitor; these days in her spare time, she enjoys hiking and biking with her husband and children. Her passions include mentoring pre-health studies students, empowering women in leadership/STEM/medicine, and improving access to healthcare and education in marginalized communities. She serves on the boards of the national Women in Science Society, Latinas in Medicine, and San Diego Harbor Police Foundation.

Maria earned her B.A. and B.S. degrees at Florida Atlantic University Honors College, M.S. and Ed.D. degrees at Nova Southeastern University, and her M.D. at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Her postgraduate medical training in Emergency Medicine was completed at Kaiser Permanente San Diego and her fellowship training in Hospice and Palliative Medicine was accomplished at UCSD. She now serves patients in San Diego County as a Scripps Health inpatient palliative care physician and also works as a hospice medical director.