What is your role?
I was hired to lead the JHM human resources agenda across the health system. We focus on attracting, engaging, developing and retaining the best talent to provide the highest quality of care for our patients.

How long have you been at Johns Hopkins?
I actually am a “newbie.” I joined Johns Hopkins in January of this year, following my position of vice president and chief human resources officer at Boston Children’s Hospital.

Where are you/your family from?
My family is originally from Puerto Rico where I still have family members. However, I was born in New York City.

What do you love about being Latina?
As a first generation to be born in the U.S., I am grateful that we grew up in a bilingual and bicultural household. Our grandparents always insisted on speaking Spanish with us.

Does your heritage influence you as a professional?
Absolutely. My diverse background affords me the unique position to be a role model for others. As a newcomer to Baltimore, I am looking forward to representing Johns Hopkins as we strengthen relationships with Latino organizations.

What do you want readers to know about Latinos?
Latinos are very family-centric. We work hard, we are compassionate, and we have a passion for life.

Who are your heroes?
I have many. I am always touched by people that thrive against all adversities and struggles and are committed to achieve personal growth.

What mark do you want to leave on Johns Hopkins, the nation or the world?
At the end of the day, I want to know that I have contributed to cultivating a highly performing, accomplished and healthy workforce representing the rich diversity of the nation.

Please give us an interesting fact about you.
I read many Spanish magazines. My new “happy” song is “Despacito.” I love to travel to all countries, especially Spain. My greatest extravagance is shoes and my happiest place is the beach.

What advice can you give other Hispanics/Latinos pursuing a career in health care?
Go for it! As the U.S. Latino population continues to grow, we need to increase our bicultural and bilingual talent in health care. This reduces health disparities and improves quality of care. It is also a boon for our co-workers in that it increases their awareness and knowledge of others.