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## Join the IHPR's Research Networks

The IHPR directs two national networks geared to boost Latino health. Visit and join *Redes En Acción*: The National Latino Cancer Research Network at [www.redesenaccion.org](http://www.redesenaccion.org) and *Salud America!* The RWJF Research Network to Prevent Obesity Among Latino Children at [www.salud-america.org](http://www.salud-america.org).

## Share Your News

We welcome your news items, story ideas and suggestions. Please e-mail them to [IHPR@uthscsa.edu](mailto:IHPR@uthscsa.edu) to be featured in our quarterly E-newsletter.

## South Texas children with cancer get a fun day in the sun

Temperatures soared higher than 100 degrees this July in South Padre Island, Texas, but it didn't matter to Greg Ayer and his 19-month old daughter, Pamela.

Pamela, who has neuroblastoma, a type of cancer, was thrilled at her first trip to Schlitterbahn Waterpark.

"She had a blast for being 19 months old. She rode four rides," said Greg Ayer, who brings Pamela to her doctor's appointments in South Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley. "Two months before that, she wasn't even walking!"

The Ayers were among 220 patients and families from Driscoll Children's Hospital Specialty Center in Brownsville who went to Schlitterbahn on July 30 thanks in part to the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Cynthia Wittenburg, the IHPR's patient navigator/clinical researcher at its satellite office at the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen, helped organize the trip with the hospital's hematology-oncology team.

"We wanted to create a fun, happy environment for the patients and their



South Texas resident Greg Ayer poses with his daughter, Pamela, age 19 months, at a recent trip to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in South Padre Island, Texas. A patient navigator at the IHPR helped organize the trip.

families," said Wittenburg, who helped secure community donations and corporate funding from Driscoll to pay for the trip.

Driscoll has several community clinics in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Wittenburg helps children and families who visit these clinics, and are diagnosed with leukemia and other types of cancer, by enrolling them in appropriate clinical trials.

Not many of these families get to go on fun excursions, she said.



Cynthia Wittenburg

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## Director's Corner

From IHPR Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez

You may have heard of the 22 high-school sophomores who spent this summer learning sophisticated lab techniques at the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.

I got the chance to speak with these students about behavioral research strategies.

The students, a mix of many races and ethnicities, paid close attention, asked insightful questions, and seemed genuinely interested in wanting to improve health.

I was encouraged to see such a desire to learn. And I was encouraged that the Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy is helping keep youths, especially minorities, interested in the health and medical fields, where they are vastly underrepresented.

One student, Elizabeth Arriaga of Burbank High School, lauded her experience.

"Having background is really nice – this program provides a lot of background," she said.

Bravo to the students like Arriaga, who will be the ones finding preventing disease in the future. Bravo to those involved in making the research academy a rewarding experience for young scholars of all ethnicities. And bravo to the generous donations of Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker for making it possible.

As the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Endowed Chair in Cancer Healthcare Disparities and Outreach at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC) at the Health Science Center, I am excited to see how these students progress in the future.

I hope the program continues for a long time.

At the Institute for Health Promotion



Dr. Sophia Piña, assistant dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, co-directs the Voelcker Academy.

Research (IHPR), we offer internships to give students an inside look at research on cancer health disparities. On Page 4, you can read about our past interns and what they accomplished and hope to accomplish.

As always, please feel free to e-mail us at [ihpr@uthscsa.edu](mailto:ihpr@uthscsa.edu).

**Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez**  
Director, IHPR

## IHPR Faculty Profile: Sandra Lorena San Miguel de Majors

Sandra Lorena San Miguel de Majors learned about cancer's impact at a young age.

Growing up in Mexico, she lost a cousin to leukemia at age 9. She also lost an aunt and uncle to cancer.

She wondered why family and friends faced barriers when they tried to get medical care, or why they shrugged off doctor's visits altogether.

This experience sparked San Miguel's strong desire to improve public health and prevent disease, and today she helps underserved Latinas access cancer care as research instructor at the IHPR.

"Ever since [my childhood], I've made it a point to not only take preventative measures for myself and encourage my loved ones to take care of themselves, but also to positively impact a greater audience to live healthier," said San Miguel.

San Miguel, who moved from Mexico to San Antonio in the 1990s for higher education, started her career in public health as a research associate at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio and, later, Baylor College of Medicine. Her development as a researcher was aided by mentorship from Drs. Amelie Ramirez and Helen Hazuda.

San Miguel joined the IHPR upon its founding by Dr. Ramirez in 2006.

She coordinates a national project to help Latinas navigate the healthcare system and examines strategies to encourage Latinas to enter cancer clinical trials and get genetic testing.



**Sandra San Miguel**

"The Latino culture is filled with many myths about health and disease. I enjoy educating community members to dispel these myths," she said. "I feel fortunate to be part of the cultural and scientific bridge between Latinos and the scientific world."

San Miguel most enjoys one-on-one interaction with Latino patients.

In particular, she remembers one Latina who was at the doctor to undergo her first chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer.

The woman was scared, thinking about leaving and praying for a sign – a situation not unlike those San Miguel used to observe as a child. San Miguel peacefully approached the woman to participate in a cancer clinical trial.

"She told me, 'As I finished praying, you appeared with a beautiful smile on your face, like an angel from heaven. You were my sign,'" San Miguel said of her talk with the woman. "My eyes filled up with tears, realizing that my presence could mean so much. I reassured her that she was at the right place and would be in the hands of outstanding health care professionals."

### Fun Facts

**Hometown:**

Monterrey, Mexico

**Family:** Husband,

Jeffrey T. Majors; Son, Alexander Nicholas, 3

**Hobbies:** Yoga, meditating,

volunteering, sketching, reading, studying foreign languages and supporting the arts

**Favorite food(s):**

Mexican, Thai and Italian

**Favorite movie(s):**

Indie and foreign films

**Favorite book(s):**

*Don Quixote* – "I especially love all the amazing Spanish *dichos* that come from this book."

# Salud America! awards 20 grants for research on Latino childhood obesity

**S**alud America! has announced the recipients of 20 pilot grants, each up to \$75,000, for research on reducing and preventing obesity among Latino youths.

Grantees are a mix of well-established and junior-level researchers from universities, health institutes and community health groups in 12 states.

Among many other issues, the grants will examine the efficacy of community-based exercise programs—BOUNCE and ReBOUNCE—for physical activity and weight control among Latina mothers and their “tween” daughters in Houston.

“These researchers will work closely with Latino populations to make a meaningful impact on policy and environmental changes that can help reverse childhood obesity,” said Dr. Amelie Ramirez, director of *Salud America!* and the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. “This is critical work given the alarming prevalence of obesity and overweight among Latino children and adolescents.”

Latino youths suffer disproportionately from obesity, but research is lacking on effective interventions that focus on Latino communities.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) established *Salud America!* in 2007 to bridge this research gap. The program aims to increase the number of researchers seeking policy and environmental solutions to childhood obesity among Latinos.

In summer 2008, *Salud America!* surveyed 300 researchers, policy-makers and other activists to establish the program’s **research agenda**, which guided the pilot funding.

The new grants began in July 2009.

To view details about the grantees, click [here](#).

## IHPR Articles and Presentations

### Articles:

- ▶ Bopp M, Wilcox S, Laken M, Hooker SP, Parra-Medina D, Saunders R, Butler K, Fallon A, and McClorin L. 8 Steps to Fitness: A Faith-Based, Behavior Change Physical Activity Intervention for African Americans. *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, 2009, 6, 568-577.
- ▶ Wildes KA, Miller AR, San Miguel S, Ramirez AG. The religiosity/spirituality of Latina breast cancer survivors and influence on health-related quality of life. *Psychooncology*. 2009 Aug; 18(8):831-40.
- ▶ Hershey JH, Velez LF. Public health issues related to HPV vaccination. *J Public Health Manag Pract*. 2009 Sep-Oct; 15(5):384-92.

### Presentations:

- ▶ Amelie G. Ramirez, IHPR. “Update on *Salud America!*” A meeting of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation national program offices in Chicago, June 25-26, 2009.
- ▶ Kip Gallion, IHPR. “Poster Session: *Redes En Acción*.” NCI’s Health Disparities Summit in Bethesda, Md., July 20-22, 2009.
- ▶ Amelie G. Ramirez, IHPR. “*Salud America!*: Preventing Obesity Among Latino Children.” Weight of the Nation conference in Washington, D.C., July 28, 2009.
- ▶ Amelie G. Ramirez, IHPR. “The IHPR: Researching the Solutions to Better Health for All.” The Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, July 30, 2009.

### ▶ APHA to publish IHPR researcher’s abstract

Courtney Denton, an IHPR social science research associate, had an abstract selected for a poster presentation at the 137th American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting November 7-11, 2009, in Philadelphia. The abstract, “Factors associated to smoking behavior in a primarily Latino population in San Antonio, Texas,” was chosen because of its “high quality and interest.”



Courtney Denton

### ▶ IHPR releases tobacco prevention newsletters

*¡Salud! San Antonio: Promoting Healthy Lives among Latinos* is a new newsletter developed by the IHPR for the San Antonio Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition (SA-TPCC). The **newsletters** feature stories of Latinos who have quit smoking, the experiences they faced and the methods they used to quit. The SA-TPCC is a multi-organization partnership for tobacco prevention. It is funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services and led by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, with help from the IHPR.



## Interns get a taste of health research, data collection at the IHPR

**Editor's Note:** This is the first in a three-part series featuring three categories of training/mentoring that occur at the IHPR. This issue's category is interns.

**A**my Guerrero wants to help people overcome impairments to daily life, so she's studying occupational therapy at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.

She figured some real-life practice handling patient data would benefit, too.

So, last summer, she helped with data collection and research activities for projects that surveyed women on breast cancer and genetic testing, all part of her internship at the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR).

"My IHPR internship helped me understand the communication process with patients about their healthcare, and how to productively gather medical and healthcare information," said Guerrero, who hopes to graduate in 2012. "These skills are critically important for when I deal with patients on a more personal basis."

Guerrero is one of nearly a dozen interns trained by IHPR investigators since 2006.

IHPR leaders aim to spur young students' interest in cancer control and prevention research and communications.

"These internships are unpaid, but they go a long way in helping students understand research processes and behavioral health communication," said IHPR Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez. "And our projects, in turn, are improved by the input and assistance of these bright young minds. It's a win-win."

Guerrero, for example, worked directly



**Amy Guerrero**

with IHPR project investigators to collect study data, ensure patient privacy and input survey results into databases for analysis.

She says it'll help her be a better occupational therapist one day.

"This internship was an incredible opportunity for me to expand my skills in the medical and health backgrounds," she said. "I gained valuable knowledge toward medical and health research production, organization, and outcome."

To inquire about getting an internship or recommending someone for an internship, e-mail [ihpr@uthscsa.edu](mailto:ihpr@uthscsa.edu).

### IHPR interns:

**Jessica Flores**, BS, MD (projected); UTHSCSA – Translated consultations for physicians, worked in Harris County community health clinic, and helped establish free health clinics in Mexico.

**Vanessa Montemayor Perez**, BS; Rice University – Helped develop a culturally competent survey instrument, and conducted a lit review on cancer disparities.

**Stephanie E. Weber**, MPH; Baylor College of Medicine – Coordinated a project developing linkages through cancer center/community partnerships.

**Sandra Veronica Covarrubias**, BS; UTHSCSA – Provided patient navigation to improve breast and cervical outcomes for Latinas at a community health clinic.

**Nancy Loriana Espinel**, BA; Baylor College of Medicine – Helped with outreach for a tobacco prevention and control project.

**Cristina Cigarroa**, MS; Harvard University – Inventoried education/outreach activities conducted by NCI cancer centers and contacted local universities for future trainee pipeline in public health and science curriculums.

**Alex Rios Tovar**, BS; UTHSCSA – Surveyed local schools' tobacco education curriculum and enrollment statistics for a tobacco-project needs assessment.

**Amy Guerrero**, BS; UTHSCSA – Helped collect data and research activities for a project surveying women on breast cancer and genetic testing.

**Kristi Silva**, BS; University of Texas at Austin – Conducted a lit review of community engagement/empowerment/participation for an obesity research study.

**Jaron Mark**, BS, MD (projected); Meharry College of Medicine – Assessed adult/child activities in the area of exercise and diet in San Antonio's Westside.

## IHPR News Briefs

### IHPR adds project coordinator

On Sept. 1, the IHPR added Dr. Daisy Y. Morales-Campos as a project coordinator. Morales-Campos recently completed her doctoral degree in health promotion and behavioral sciences at The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston. She is a bilingual/bicultural researcher with experience developing and implementing community-based interventions among Hispanic populations in Texas. "Her expertise in qualitative and quantitative research methods will bring valuable expertise to the IHPR research team," said IHPR

Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez. Morales-Campos earned her master's degree in medical anthropology from Southern Methodist University.

### Ramirez recognized at event

On June 4, 2009, Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez, director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research, was recognized and received an award at a *Hispanic Business* magazine event in Houston for being one of a handful of "Women of Vision." The magazine published a profile of her achievements in their April 2009 [edition](#).

## CPRIT gets \$450M to fund cancer research

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) has taken recent steps forward, including the passing of a bill by the Texas Legislature in June that will drastically improve CPRIT operations.

The bill strengthens the conflict of interest guidelines, clarifies the peer review process and gives CPRIT the necessary tools to ensure that taxpayer money is invested wisely.

CPRIT also received an appropriation of \$450 million dollars for the next two years to fund grants for cancer research and prevention to expedite innovation in cancer treatment and expand cancer prevention and treatment capabilities.

"While we were hoping for the full funding of \$600 million dollars, we thank the Texas leadership for putting their faith in the Institute," said William "Bill" Gimson,



Executive Director of the Institute. "We promise the people of Texas that we will be good stewards of the public's trust by funding only the best scientific research and prevention, measuring what we do, and reporting back regularly on our progress."

Policies and processes are being developed to receive and review project proposals, make awards to the best projects, and properly monitor the progress of each project. The first call for proposals will happen this fall.

CPRIT's Oversight Committee appointed a Scientific and Prevention Advisory Council,

which includes representatives from many fields of cancer prevention to advise about promising areas for investing state dollars in cancer prevention and research. IHPR Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez is on this advisory council.



**Dr. Amelie Ramirez**

The Oversight Committee also named Dr. Rebecca Garcia CPRIT chief prevention officer.

"We are so pleased that the Institute is quickly building the infrastructure to award the best cancer research and prevention projects that Texas has to offer," said James M. Mansour, Oversight Committee chairman. "We are hopeful that before the end of the biennium the Institute will be fully funded as the people of Texas wanted."

### News Briefs

#### Study examines San Antonio traffic and community design

Arterial roadways, strip commercial uses, and big box stores all have a profoundly negative effect on traffic safety, while the presence of traditional, "main-street" retail configurations are associated with safer communities, according to a new study. The [study](#), published recently in the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, examined three years of traffic accident data in San Antonio to understand how different land use and street configurations may influence crash incidence. The study found a 6.6% increase in total crash incidence for each big box store located adjacent to an arterial thoroughfare, and a 2.2% decrease in crash incidence for each pedestrian-scaled commercial or retail use.

### RAHC Corner

#### Henrich lauds Legislature's commitment to research, RAHC



**William Henrich**

In a guest [column](#) in the *San Antonio Express-News* on Aug. 15, 2009, UT Health Science Center at San Antonio President Dr. William Henrich lauded the Texas governor and Legislature for making investments to

medical research and education, including an increase in the budget for the Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC).

The Lower Rio Grande Valley and Laredo, Dr. Henrich noted, have growing populations served by fewer healthcare professionals per capita than most other areas.

The UT Health Science Center's School of Medicine is expanding education



and research in this region through the RAHC, and the Legislature this year appropriated \$6.5 million over the regular RAHC budget of about \$24 million to expand RAHC programs.

He also noted the Legislature's continued investment in the dental and health professions educational programs, provided through the Health Science Center's Laredo Campus Extension by funding the campus at \$10 million for 2010-2011.

"These commitments to research, education and clinical care make it clear that our governor and the Legislature deserve our esteem and thanks for their care for our citizens," according to Henrich's column.

## Moving to the U.S. increases cancer risk for Hispanics

**P**HILADELPHIA – Results of a new [study](#) confirm trends that different Hispanic subpopulations have higher incidence rates of certain cancers and worse cancer outcomes if they live in the U.S., than they do if they live in their homelands.

“Hispanics are not all the same in their cancer experience,” said the study’s lead researcher Dr. Paulo S. Pinheiro of the University of Miami School of Medicine. “Targeted interventions for cancer prevention and control should take into account the specificity of each Hispanic subgroup: Cubans, Puerto Ricans or Mexicans.”

The study, published in *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, evaluated what kind of cancers occurs in each specific Hispanic subgroup and compared the risk after moving



**Paulo S. Pinheiro**

to the U.S. The study was conducted in Florida, which has a diverse community composed of Cubans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Central and South Americans.

The results indicated that these population groups showed different patterns of cancer. Mexicans had the lowest rates of cancer overall; Puerto Ricans had the highest rates. Overall, cancer risk was at least 40 percent higher among U.S. Hispanics compared with those who live in their countries of origin for most cancers, the study found.

To date, studies have classified all Hispanics under the same umbrella, as a single ethnic group, hiding the differences between each population group.

“They are really heterogeneous from cultural and socioeconomic perspectives and represent several population groups,” said Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez, director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR).

With the increasing Hispanic population in the U.S. (nearly one in every three people will be Hispanic by 2050), Ramirez said it is important to conduct studies like this to better understand these differences and learn about what predisposes different population groups to certain types of cancer to improve health outcomes.

### News Briefs

#### Program helps Latino immigrants learn the health system

A new program aims to help immigrant families in Camden become more literate about children’s health issues, according to the *Courier-Post*. A new grant awarded to the Rutgers-Camden Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership will pay for consulting fees and training for parents and health-care providers for the Health Education Literacy Program (HELP). A curriculum will be developed so medical students, parent educators and preschool personnel can instruct immigrant parents in English-speaking skills, how to read a prescription, etc.

#### Asthma issues on the rise for Hispanics

Rising asthma rates hit the Hispanic community particularly hard, and genetics, immigration, poverty and lack of insurance and cultural beliefs may play a role, according to a new [article](#). Complicating matters is the fact that Hispanics face communication barriers with doctors and are categorized as a homogenous group, even though researchers have found that asthma prevalence is related to national origin. Puerto Ricans, for example, have high rates. Researchers suggest offering

more Spanish-language materials, engaging in more outreach and training more Hispanics in clinical work and research to address the issue.

#### Hispanics often treated by lower quality surgeons

Hispanic men and women needing heart-bypass surgery are about 50 percent more likely than white patients to undergo an operation by lower quality surgeons, according to research conducted in Massachusetts, as reported by [Reuters](#). Compared with white patients, Hispanic patients were almost three times more likely to be operated on by higher-risk rather than lower-risk surgeons, defined by the risk of patients’ dying within 30 days of surgery

#### IOM advocates standardization of patient race, ethnicity and language data

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has released a [report](#) suggesting that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) develop national standards for collecting data on patient race, ethnicity and primary language to better understand and address care quality disparities, *AHA News Now* reports. The report acknowledges that disparities persist for specific patient populations and that data collection is a “fundamental step” in identifying

which groups are most at risk.

#### Minorities more likely to be sick, less likely to get care

A new government [report](#), *Health Disparities: A Case for Closing the Gap*, indicates that minorities and low-income Americans are more likely to be sick and less likely to get the care they need. The report found that eight percent of whites develop diabetes, compared to 14 percent of Hispanics. Also, Hispanics were one-third less likely to be counseled on obesity than were whites.

#### Physicians’ cultural unfamiliarity may cause missed medical cues

Doctors who are unaware of cultural influences may miss important medical issues and exacerbate an often already tenuous therapeutic relationship, according to a report in the [New York Times](#).

#### Minority women lag in health care system

Minority women receive far less access to formal health care services than their white counterparts, according to a new study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, reported by [NPR](#). The report signals “sizeable health disparities” across all 50 states in women of different racial and ethnic groups.

## Report: Hispanics rank obesity as top child health concern for first time

The proportion of adults who believe childhood obesity is the biggest children's health problem has increased from 35 percent in 2008 to 42 percent in 2009, according to an annual national **poll** on child health from the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

And, for the first time, Hispanics and African Americans rank obesity as the top child health concern.

"This is the first year the three major racial/ethnic groups all agree," said Dr. Matthew Davis, poll director. "In 2008, among whites, the chief concern was obesity, while among blacks the chief concern was teen pregnancy, and among Hispanics the chief concern was smoking."

In May 2009, adults were asked to rate 23 different health concerns for children living in their communities.

About 46 percent of Hispanics believe childhood obesity is a



problem, more than bullying (37 percent) and child abuse and neglect (37 percent).

About 30 percent of whites and 55 percent of African Americans ranked obesity as the top child health concern.

The ranking comes on the heels of several new studies that identify higher obesity rates in Hispanics. A recent government **report** indicated that, although the childhood obesity epidemic may be stabilizing, one in seven preschool children

from low-income U.S. families are still obese. Another **report** found that increases in severe childhood obesity were highest among blacks, Mexican-Americans and those below the poverty level.

To address such concerns successfully, Dr. Davis said children and families need not just access to medical and mental health care, but also guidance from community health and educational programs that cultivate healthy, protective behaviors and offer support.

### Fun day in the sun

► *Continued from Page 1*

"Due to limited financial resources and social circumstances, some of the patients and their families have not been able to attend these types of events that are sometimes held at Driscoll's main hospital in Corpus Christi," Wittenburg said. "So we brought the fun to them so they can have a tremendous experience, and they really did."

"Most of the patients and their families had never been to Schlitterbahn, so it was like Disneyland for most."

Greg Ayer certainly agrees. He said his daughter had a fantastic time.

"I'd just like to say, 'Thanks.'"



**Pamela Ayer enjoys some fun in the sun at Schlitterbahn Waterpark in South Padre Island, Texas.**

### How to help Latino children with leukemia

When a child or adult is diagnosed with leukemia, the hope is to find someone who is compatible and willing to donate blood stem cells (healthy white cells) or bone marrow. Latino children comprise the highest number of leukemia cases among ethnic minorities diagnosed in the United States, according to *American Cancer Society Facts & Figures 2008*. As of January 2009, 5.3 percent of individuals on the "Be the Match" national bone marrow registry were Latinos. To register, a person fills out a form and performs a cheek swabbing test. If compatible, the individual will be asked for a blood stem cell donation (used 70 percent of the time), which is similar to donating blood. The other process is marrow donation (used 30 percent of the time). To request an information kit, call 510-568-3700. Click [here](#) to view a calendar of upcoming bone marrow drives in your community.

## Latinas and barriers to high-school graduation

The National Women's Law Center (NWLC) and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) conducted surveys, interviews and focus groups among Latina students to identify challenges to their graduation from high school. The resulting *Listening to Latinas: Barriers to High School Graduation* [report](#) explores the causes of the dropout crisis for Latinas and identifies the actions needed to improve their graduation rates and get them ready for college.

## Cancer Facts & Figures 2009 Supplemental Information

Each year, the American Cancer Society's Department of Surveillance & Health Policy Research follows the publication of its annual nationwide Cancer Facts & Figures with the release of supplemental data. This additional [data](#) can be used for cancer control planning. Supplemental information includes state-by-state data on several topics, including cancer cases and deaths by site.

## Breast health education materials

The Prevent Cancer Foundation recently produced a [DVD](#) with facilitator's guide called *Breast Health Education for Young Women*. Educators are using the materials to teach breast health behavior to young women in their communities – at health fairs, health centers and schools. The guide includes instructions for various interactive activities to provide skill-based breast health education to groups of young women, and discuss breast cancer myths and facts.

## Spanish LIVESTRONG Web site

Lance Armstrong Foundation's (LAF) Spanish [Web site](#) recently was redesigned with a Spanish-speaking user in mind. The site contains culturally relevant stories and messages, a SurvivorCare function to answer questions about cancer, online videos, and more. The site also features online training for *promotores* to improve the quality of life of Hispanic/Latino cancer survivors.

## New data resource on children with foreign-born parents

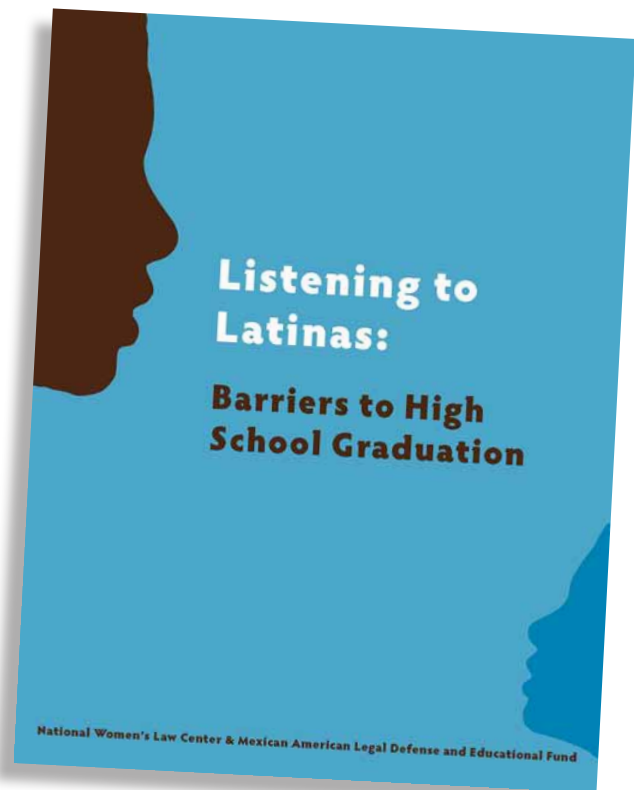
A comprehensive interactive resource exploring the lives of 16.4 million children with foreign-born parents recently debuted on the Urban Institute's [Web site](#). The tool, called The Children of Immigrants Data Tool, enables users to generate detailed charts of the characteristics of children age 0 to 17 nationwide and for individual states and the District of Columbia.

## New statistics on Mexican immigration

The flow of immigrants from Mexico to the U.S. has declined sharply since mid-decade, but there is no evidence of an increase during this period in the number of Mexican-born migrants returning home from the U.S., according to a new [analysis](#) by the Pew Hispanic Center of government data from both countries.

## Review of health on U.S.-Mexico border

The United States-Mexico Border Health Commission (BHC) has released its *Healthy Border 2010 Midterm Review-U.S. Border Area*, which [examines](#) the status of obtaining detailed health data on the 21 U.S. Healthy Border objectives as of 2005. In March of 2001, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission (BHC) established *Healthy Border 2010* as an initiative for health promotion and disease prevention.



## AACR cancer disparities conference Webcasts

Webcasts from the 2007 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Conference on *The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial / Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved* are available online. You do not have to be an AACR member to view these free [Webcasts](#).

## Cancer disparities book

A new [book](#), *Toward the Elimination of Cancer Disparities*, captures the breadth and depth of the dimensions of cancer disparities from both clinical and public health perspectives. It reflects the work of a number of experts in cancer disparities and broadens concepts of disparities beyond traditional race/ethnicity discussions to explore a more systematic analysis of how, where and why disparities occur across the cancer continuum.

## Translation toolkit series

The *More Than Words Toolkit Series*, a [resource](#) developed by *Hablamos Juntos* with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, clarifies the translation process and provides a roadmap to help health care organizations improve the quality of their translated materials to get better results. The toolkit resource is designed to assist individuals and organizations in initiating translations of health care text of all types.

## Cultural competency for emergency responders

On July 1, the Office of Minority Health released its latest cultural competency e-learning program, Cultural Competency Curriculum for Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response. This set of [courses](#) aim to integrate knowledge, attitudes, and skills related to cultural competency in order to help lessen racial and ethnic health care disparities brought on by disaster situations.

## Funding

### Ladder to Leadership training program

Ladder to Leadership: Developing the Next Generation of Community Health Leaders, a collaborative initiative of RWJF and the Center for Creative Leadership, seeks to help 270 early- to mid-career professionals in community-based, nonprofit health organizations serving vulnerable population develop critical leadership skills through a 16-month curriculum. The **program** is being delivered in nine priority communities on a staggered schedule. The next opening, for Portland, Ore., starts September 25, 2009 and runs until November 13, 2009.

### NIH grants to improve diet, physical activity assessments

Several institutes of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have issued a **request for applications** for Improving Diet and Physical Activity Assessments to encourage research to enhance the quality of measurements



of dietary intake and physical activity. Applications may include development of novel assessment approaches, better methods to evaluate instruments, assessment tools for culturally diverse populations or various age groups and integrated measurement of diet and physical activity. The earliest of several application deadlines is October 5, 2009.

### NIH grants for community participation research

The NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research is seeking R01 grant **applications** that propose intervention research on health promotion, disease prevention, and health disparities that communities and researchers jointly conduct. Examples include, among many others, a community-led action plan for cancer and reducing health disparities. Applications are due October 5, 2009.

### NCI grant to promote workforce diversity

A funding **opportunity** for the *Exploratory Grant Award to Promote Workforce Diversity in Basic Cancer Research (R21)* has been issued by the NCI's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities and the Division of Cancer Biology. Applications are invited from investigators from diverse populations with interest in research projects focused on the basic biology of cancer. The purpose is to improve the diversity of the research workforce by supporting and recruiting eligible investigators from underrepresented groups. A letter of intent is due October 23, 2009.

### Basic Cancer Research in Cancer Health Disparities

The NCI invites grant **applications** from investigators interested in conducting basic research studies into the causes and mechanisms of cancer health disparities. Awards are for *Exploratory/Developmental Grants Program for Basic Cancer Research in Cancer Health Disparities (R21)*. Grants will support pilot and feasibility studies, development and testing of new methodologies, secondary data analyses, and innovative mechanistic studies that investigate biological/genetic bases of cancer health disparities. Applications are due November 23, 2009.

### RWJF grants to reduce exposure to violence

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Local Funding Partnerships is seeking **applications** for *Peaceful Pathways: Reducing Exposure to Violence*. RWJF will partner with diversity-focused funders and other local grant makers to fund projects to reduce violence in specific communities, such as those defined by race, ethnicity, tribe, gender, sexual identity or rural/frontier location. The application deadline is December 31, 2009.

### NCI grants for collaborative cancer research

The NCI invites **applications** for *Feasibility Studies for Collaborative Interaction for Minority Institution/Cancer Center Partnership (P20)*. This funding opportunity is designed to facilitate planning and implementation of focused collaborations in cancer-related research, training, career development, education and/or outreach. A letter of intent is due March 19, 2010.

**Events**

**Continuing education audio conferences**

The Teleconference Network of Texas (TNT) at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, a nonprofit that provides continuing education audio conferences for health care professionals, has developed a [series of audio conferences](#) on topics like blood banking, clinical chemistry, laboratory technology, microbiology, nutrition updates, health education and training, social work, and many more. To register, contact TNT at 1-800-982-8868.



**The U.S. – Latin America Cancer Research Network met at a planning meeting of the Latin American Breast Cancer Pilot Project in March 2009. IHPR Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez is fourth from left in the top row.**

bring leaders of AACI cancer centers – center directors and executive-level administrators – together with leaders of national cancer research and advocacy organizations, industry and government health agencies to share best practices and devise solutions to common challenges.

**Meeting on Latino education and immigrant integration**

The University of Georgia Center for Latino Achievement and Success in Education (CLASE) is hosting the first

triennial Conference on Latino Education and Immigrant Integration: Setting a Cogent Policy and Research Agenda from Oct. 26-28, 2009, in Athens, Ga. The [conference](#) is designed to promote a forum where a range of stakeholders can meet, discuss and begin to frame focused research and cogent policy regarding immigrants and education.

**LBHI Latino conference**

The Latino Behavioral Health Institute Annual Conference, “Advancing Latino Behavioral Health: From Margin to Main,” will be conducted on September 23-25, 2009, in Universal City, Calif. Click [here](#) for more information about the conference and LBHI.

**SACNAS conference**

The 2009 SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) National [Conference](#) is scheduled October 15-18 in Dallas. *The theme is Improving the Human Condition: Challenges for Interdisciplinary Science.* The SACNAS National Conference brings together more than 2,300 underrepresented minority science undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, precollege educators, and science faculty and professionals.

**Rural multicultural health conference**

The National Rural Health Association’s Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Conference, set for December 9-11, 2009, in Memphis, focuses on rural multiracial and multicultural health issues. [Conference](#) sessions will address four critical areas of rural economic development: education, entrepreneurship, social infrastructure and public infrastructure.

**Southern Obesity Summit**

The Southern Obesity [Summit](#), to be held in Austin, Texas, October 4-6, 2009, will unite 15 Southern states to work together to identify local, statewide and regional solutions to the obesity epidemic. The summit aims to reinforce efforts of committed Southern practitioner teams; connect peer obesity prevention leaders to promote, coordinate and sustain prevention activities and share examples of successful implementation strategies.

**AACI/CCAF annual meeting**

The 2009 American Association of Cancer Institutes/Cancer Center Administrators Forum Annual Meeting is scheduled October 18-20 in Washington, D.C. The [meeting](#) will

**About the E-newsletter**

This E-newsletter is produced quarterly by the Institute for Health Promotion Research. Please send news items or story ideas to [IHPR@uthscsa.edu](mailto:IHPR@uthscsa.edu).

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