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## IHPR Job Opportunities

View job Opportunities [here](#) for the IHPR and [here](#) for The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

## 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.

## New tobacco prevention coalition aims to create a 'smoke-free' San Antonio

Vicente Escobedo is a family man. That's why his daughter's words hurt so much.

"Daddy, you smell ugly. You smell like smoke."

Escobedo, a 21-year-old from San Antonio, was a smoker. In his job as a resource specialist for the San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign, he mentors young fathers to make healthy, strong families. He began to realize that his smoking wasn't making his own family strong or healthy.

So he quit, and has been smoke-free for 10 months.

"Machismo is to be a protector of your family – working, showing pride in your family, being a caretaker for your family," Escobedo said. "So I follow that value of machismo."

Escobedo is a role model for the new San Antonio Tobacco Prevention & Control Coalition, a new multi-organization partnership that aims to conduct a tobacco prevention campaign to create and promote a "smoke-free" city.

The [coalition](#), funded by the Texas Department



The new San Antonio Tobacco Prevention & Control Coalition is using role models like Vicente Escobedo, a San Antonio father who quit smoking to improve the health of his family, to reduce tobacco use and increase health in the city.



of State Health Services, is led by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District with help from the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR). It launched in late 2008.

Coalition goals include: Using role models and outreach to prevent tobacco use among youth; increasing cessation among adults; ensuring compliance with tobacco laws; eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke; reducing tobacco use among those with the highest burden of tobacco-related health disparities; and developing and maintaining statewide capacity for comprehensive tobacco prevention.

"We hope to curb tobacco use by educating the public about the dangers of smoking and the benefits

*Continued on Page 7* ▶

## Director's Corner

From IHPR Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez

In an exciting development, I will represent the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio on a new advisory council for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT).

CPRIT, created by the Texas Legislature and approved by Texas voters in 2007 through Proposition 15, is authorized to issue \$3 billion in bonds over 10 years to fund grants for cancer research, prevention, early detection and control programs.

I was appointed to CPRIT's new Scientific and Prevention Advisory Council in April by South Texas media consultant Lionel Sosa, a member of the CPRIT Oversight Committee, which will oversee allocation of the bond funding.

The advisory council will help guide the Oversight Committee on the

development of cancer research in Texas.

We met for the first time April 30.

At this meeting, I learned that the council will recommend areas of cancer prevention and research in which to invest, and also help build a pool of potential out-of-state reviewers for grants from a request for applications that is expected to be issued later this year.

I think this council will allow both the IHPR and the Health Science Center to take an active role in helping reduce and prevent cancer in Texas, especially in South Texas' medically underserved regions.

I will keep our Health Science Center leaders abreast of the council's activities, as well as the details of the soon-to-come request for applications

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

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



**Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez (center) visits with Bill Gimson (right), executive director of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, and Andy Miller (left) of the Lance Armstrong Foundation April 2, 2009, at the foundation's headquarters in Austin.**

*Photo courtesy of the Austin American-Statesman*

## IHPR Faculty Profile: Dr. Cynthia Mojica

As a biological sciences undergraduate in the early 1990s, Cynthia Mojica was invited to a public health conference in Los Angeles sponsored by UCLA and Kaiser Permanente.

She went because it was a chance to "party in L.A."

She left with a new career path.

"I never imagined that I would discover a career that merged my interests in the health care field and my desire to provide and improve health care services for Latinos," said Mojica, who was spurred to earn a master's degree in public health from UCLA in 1995.

Dr. Mojica has since earned a doctoral degree and conducted public health research aimed at improving people's health and quality of life, culminating in her joining the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) in April 2009.

She's always desired to help the underserved.

She grew up watching her father fight for the rights of farm workers to work and live in decent conditions, giving her insight into the need for services and leadership in underserved, ethnically diverse communities.

So, after getting her public health degree, Dr. Mojica worked as a project director in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control



**Cynthia Mojica**

Research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. She cut her teeth as a researcher, investigating the effects of telephone counseling among women after an abnormal mammogram; screening practices of colon cancer patients' family members; and methods to increase cancer screening rates.

At the IHPR, where she is a research instructor, she's involved in *Salud San Antonio*, a cancer education and outreach effort targeting the city's West side, and projects on risk assessment and clinical trials participation.

She also is turning her post-doctoral project, which examined the relationship between neighborhood English proficiency and stage of colorectal cancer at diagnosis, into a larger project with a Texas component.

Dr. Mojica, after all, is the quintessential advocate for the underserved.

"My non-public health friends say that I always root for the underdog. I enjoy seeing other people live healthy, happy lives," Mojica said. "All I want is for our underserved communities to feel healthy – physically, emotionally, and spiritually."

### Fun Facts

**Hometown:** Salinas, Calif. (the "lettuce capital of the world")

**Family:** Husband, Luis De Luna

**Hobbies:** Reading, going to the beach and exercising (jogging, yoga, tennis)

**Favorite food(s):** All kinds of fruit

**Favorite movie(s):** "I'm bad at remembering movie titles."

**Favorite book(s):** *Rain of Gold* by Victor Villaseñor; *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

## IHPR's ENLACE promotes fitness among Texas, S.C. Latinas

What motivates Latinas to exercise? What barriers do they face? How “walkable” are their communities?

ENLACE, a new study led by the IHPR's Dr. Deborah Parra-Medina, hopes to answer those questions using community-based participatory research to identify and understand factors that influence physical activity behaviors among Latinas in South Carolina's Columbia metropolitan area and Hidalgo County in Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The [study](#), funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, began in late 2008.

ENLACE researchers and teams of community leaders in Texas and South Carolina already are conducting focus groups and interviews to assess Latinas' physical activity challenges and opportunities.

Based on those community assessments, researchers will develop a tailored, culturally appropriate program to promote Latina physical activity in each region.



National Heart  
Lung and Blood Institute  
People Science Health



**Dr. Deborah Parra-Medina of the IHPR (center) visits with ENLACE partners in South Texas to help understand what drives physical activity among Latinas.**

“We'll then test the program among 60 Latinas in each region to try and increase their minutes-per-week of moderate to vigorous physical activity,” said Dr. Parra-Medina.

Engaging in regular physical activity can help prevent obesity and its related health complications, such as diabetes and heart disease.

But Mexican-American girls and women have high rates of overweight and sedentary

lifestyles, according to health research. And predominantly Latino regions like the Lower Rio Grande Valley have high rates of obesity and diabetes.

In South Carolina, ENLACE will work with Drs. DeAnne Hlinger Messias and Patricia Sharpe of the University of South Carolina and the South Carolina Hispanic Latino Health Coalition to spur Latina activity. In Texas, Dr. Parra-Medina is teaming with the Texas A&M Center for Housing and Urban Development's *Colonias* Program.

In South Texas, ENLACE researchers and community leaders also are examining community walkability.

“A lack of sidewalks or trails, poor lighting, and high-traffic streets are barriers to safe, enjoyable walking,” Dr. Parra-Medina said. “People may walk more if they had better walking routes.”

### IHPR Articles and Presentations

#### Articles:

- ▶ Ramirez AG, Wildes KA, Nápoles-Springer A, Pérez-Stable E, Talavera G, Rios E. Physician gender differences in general and cancer-specific prevention attitudes and practices. *J Cancer Educ.* 2009;24(2):85-93.

#### Presentations:

- ▶ Amelie G. Ramirez, IHPR. “Increasing Latino participation in clinical trials, genetic testing on the Texas-Mexico border and beyond.” Cancer Health Disparities: Building Bridges to Improve Rural Health in New Mexico, May 27, 2009.
- ▶ Amelie G. Ramirez, IHPR. “Latino Population Characteristics, Culture, & Behavioral Influences on Cancer.” UT Health Science Center at San Antonio Family and Community Medicine Grand Rounds in San Antonio, May 1, 2009.
- ▶ Amelie G. Ramirez, IHPR. “*Redes En Acción*: The National Latino

Cancer Research Network.” UT Health Science Center and UT Pan American Grant Retreat in Kerrville, Texas, April 30-May 2, 2009.

- ▶ Luis Velez, IHPR. “Keeping Our Children Away from Tobacco/*Manteniendo a Nuestros Niños Lejos del Tabaco.*” *Hispanas Unidas (Escuelitas Program)* in several different San Antonio ISD and area schools, including Ball Elementary School (April 2), Crockett Elementary School (April 9), New Frontiers Charter School (April 20), and Loma Park Elementary (April 22).
- ▶ Patricia Chalela, IHPR. “Breast Cancer among Latinas.” William Velasquez Adult Education Center meeting in San Antonio, April 9, 2009.
- ▶ Patricia Chalela, IHPR. “*Cáncer del Seno en la Mujer Latina.*” Coronado-Escobar Elementary School meeting, San Antonio ISD, April 9, 2009.
- ▶ Amelie G. Ramirez, IHPR. “IHPR Overview: 2008-2009.” IHPR Executive Advisory Board (EAB) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, March 30, 2009.
- ▶ Patricia Chalela, IHPR. “The Latino Population and Their Cancer Experience.” National Cancer Institute Director's Consumer Liaison Group in Austin, Texas, March 27, 2009.
- ▶ Amelie G. Ramirez, IHPR. “A National Patient Navigation Program for Latina Breast Cancer Patients.” National Hispanic Medical Association in Washington, D.C., March 19, 2009.
- ▶ Deborah Parra-Medina, IHPR. “Initial results of the ‘HHER Lifestyle Program’: A Cardiovascular RISK reduction program for financially disadvantaged African American women.” American Academy of Health Behavior meeting in Hilton Head, S.C., March 11, 2009.

## IHPR employees walk, run, bicycle, Yoga and play basketball as role models of physical activity

At the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR), faculty and staffers research ways to spur exercise and healthy lifestyles – but they don't just preach it.

They're weekend and workout warriors, too.

Take Courtney Denton, for example.

At work, Denton, a social science research associate, helps with the IHPR's national childhood obesity research network and a project to create a "smoke-free" San Antonio. Outside the office, Denton recently ran a half-marathon and joined the 100-mile Shiner GASP bike ride from Austin to Shiner, Texas, in May.

"I think our work to promote healthy lifestyles is more effective when we demonstrate healthy lifestyles ourselves," Denton said. "It might help inspire someone else to get healthy if they see you doing the same."

And Denton isn't the only IHPR employee getting active.

In fact, fitness starts at the top of the IHPR – Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez does Yoga at Nydia's Yoga Therapy in San Antonio.



Courtney Denton

"Yoga is a great stress-reducer," Dr. Ramirez said. "That and a healthy diet helps me stay energized to improve other people's health through our work at the IHPR."

Here are some of IHPR's workout warriors:

- Dr. Cynthia Mojica does Yoga, jogs and plays tennis
- Dr. Kimberly Wildes does Yoga and neuromuscular integrative action techniques.
- Sandra San Miguel does Yoga and a music-driven exercise.
- Sandy Griffith walks at least four times a week.
- Sandra Veronica Covarrubias works out regularly at a gym.
- Cliff Despres plays basketball four times a week and works out at a gym.
- Rebecca Vega is jogging routinely to train for a marathon.

For Denton, her participation in the 100-mile cycling pilgrimage was a way to work out and help fight cancer, as the event benefited the American Cancer Society.

She's not stopping there, either. She recently signed up for her first triathlon this summer and will run the Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Half Marathon on Nov. 15, 2009.

"It's always good to practice what you preach," Denton said.

## IHPR News Briefs

### IHPR researchers participate in NCI project meeting

Several Health Science Center and UT Pan American researchers met April 30-May 2 in Kerrville, Texas, to bolster their partnership in a National Cancer Institute-funded project to stimulate research and training collaborative partnership between the two universities to increase the cancer research base on the Texas-Mexico border. "We hope this is the beginning of a long relationship between these two institutions for both research and training," said project leader Dr. Susan Naylor of the Health Science Center. At the event, Health Science Center attendees included Naylor, Addanki Pratap Kumar, Yuanyuan Liang, Brad Pollock, April Risinger, Thomas Slaga, Sung-Jen Wei, Subramanian Dhandayuthapani, Jameela Banu, John Short, Rector Arya, Michael Escamilla, and IHPR researchers Amelie Ramirez, Luis Velez, Kip Gallion, Cynthia Mojica, Patricia Chalela and Jennifer Salinas. UT Pan American attendees included Debasish Bandyopadhyay, Bimal Banik, Iran Barrera, Andres Figueroa, Scott Gunn, Edwin LeMaster,

Javier Macossay-Torres, Jose Pagan, Sophie Wang, Narda Pacheco and Damian Huerta. The IHPR's role is to assess Latinas perspective on breast cancer genetic testing.



Dr. Amelie Ramirez

### IHPR director honored by business publications; named to award committee

Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez, director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The University of Texas Health Science Center, was recognized by a pair of business publications in April 2009. First, she was named one of a handful of "Women of Vision" in the April 2009 *Hispanic Business magazine*. Next, she was named alongside several others from the Health Science Center as one of the 2009 Health Care *Heroes* by the *San Antonio Business Journal*.

She also was named in May to the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Selection Committee for the 2nd AACR Award for Outstanding Achievement in Breast Cancer Research, funded by Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The award honors an investigator whose work helped prevent breast cancer.

## Study: Texas among states with poorest health in nation

**T**exas ranks as one of the worst in the nation in a recent study that links poor health to limited education, while low-income, and less educated, and minority Americans face the greatest risks to health, according to a *San Antonio Express-News* [report](#).

The [study](#), released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in May, indicates that more educated people are healthier than those with lower education, in general.

That health gap between people with high and low education levels, upon an examination of Census data and health surveys, was worse in some states. Texas was ranked 45th in the nation in health.

About 50 percent of Texas adults said their health was less than good, according to the study. On average, college graduates

had the best health, but 75 percent of Texas adults don't have a college degree.

In Texas, which is predominantly Latino, 67 percent of Latinos were in less than very good health, compared to 40 percent of whites.

In the nation, more than 66 percent of the nation's Latino adults were in less than very good health – more than any other group.

“This report indicates that more education means better health and Hispanics tend to be in poorer health, so we have to continue our efforts to develop interventions and programs to increase Latinos' access to health care and encourage them to stay in school and seek college and doctoral degrees,” said IHPR Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez.



### News Briefs

#### Statistics show South Texas needs more health professionals

Obesity is expected to grow by more than 500 percent among Texas Hispanics over the next 30 years, while the number of unfilled health care positions is expected to grow by as much as 56 percent in certain fields by as early as 2016. These statistics indicate the need for more health professionals, said Marilyn Harrington, Ph.D., dean of the School of Health Professions at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, in a [presentation](#) to future leaders of Laredo on April 8, 2009.

#### Texas policymaker introduces bill to boost access to colon cancer screening, treatment

U.S. Rep. Kay Granger, R-Texas, has introduced a [congressional measure](#) that would allocate \$50 million to national programs that screen, treat and monitor colon cancer, with a focus on programs that cater to low-income, uninsured and underinsured patients, *CQ HealthBeat* reports.

### RAHC Corner

#### RAHC hosts groundbreaking for new VA center in the Valley

**HARLINGEN** – In a [ceremony](#) witnessed by dozens of Rio Grande Valley veterans, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ceremonially broke ground April 6 for the \$40 million Harlingen Ambulatory Surgery and Specialty Outpatient Center.

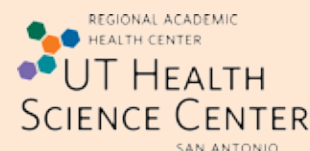
This new center will be a major educational site for UT Health Science Center medical residents and students based at the Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) in Harlingen.

A part of the new VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System, the three-story, 120,000-square-foot ambulatory surgery and outpatient center is expected to open in January 2011. It will be located on the Health Science Center's Harlingen campus, immediately behind the RAHC Medical Education Division.

The new center will house six surgical suites, colonoscopy and cystoscopy suites, medicine

and surgery specialty outpatient clinics, prosthetics care, an amputee clinic and a substance abuse treatment clinic.

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Rep.



Henry Cuellar and other speakers noted that the construction of the new facility, along with recently initiated inpatient and emergency room service contracts with Valley community hospitals, will eliminate 95 percent of veterans' travel to San Antonio for health care.

In helping make the

center a reality, speakers praised the efforts of UT System Chancellor Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa; Dr. Ken I. Shine of the UT System; Dr. William L. Henrich, president of the UT Health Science Center; Dr. Glenn Halff, interim dean of the Health Science Center's School of Medicine; Dr. Leonel Vela, regional dean of the RAHC; and many others.



**Members of the U.S. Veterans Administration (left) and UT System Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D., (right) applaud Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who spoke about taking care of the 'great warriors who have protected America.'**

# Minorities, especially Latinos, to bear brunt of U.S. cancer rise

New cancer cases in the U.S. will rise by 45 percent over the next 20 years due to an aging population and increased proportions of minorities, according to a new study.

Cancer among Hispanics is expected to rise 142 percent – the biggest rise of any group.

The predicted surge in cancer cases, described in a study in the April 29 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, is expected to sharpen health disparities and will outpace population growth, according to a [HealthDay news report](#).

Most worrisome is that some of the deadliest cancers – liver, stomach, pancreatic and lung – are expected to see some of

the biggest increases, Air Force Maj. Ben Smith, chief of radiation oncology at Wilford Hall Medical Center, told [the San Antonio Express-News](#).

“The reason is that those are cancers that are more common in older adults, and that’s the segment of the population that’s growing more quickly,” said Smith, study author. “And those are cancers... that are more common in Hispanics and in Asians. And those are the two minority groups that are increasing the most quickly.”

Cancer incidence is expected to increase 67 percent in the older population, compared

## Cases to rise

A study predicts new cases of cancer will increase sharply over the next 20 years as the population ages and grows more diverse.

By cancer	By age/ethnic group
All cancers 45%	65 and older 67%
Stomach 67%	All minorities 100%
Liver 59%	Anglos 31%
Myeloma 57%	Blacks 64%
Pancreas 55%	Asians 132%
Bladder 54%	Hispanics 142%

Source: *Journal of Clinical Oncology* HARRY THOMAS/hthomas@express-news.net  
Chart from the *San Antonio Express-News*

to 11 percent in the younger population, and to double among minorities, compared to a 31 percent increase among whites.

Study authors suggest promoting screening and prevention strategies, and increasing elderly and minority participation in cancer research and clinical trials.

## News Briefs

### Promotoras improve cancer screening rates among Latinas

Home visits from *promotoras* – peers trained as health workers – can improve screening rates for breast and cervical cancer screening among low-income Latinas, Reuters [reports](#). The article, published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, was authored by Dr. Maria F. Fernandez, central region co-principal investigator for *Redes En Acción*, a national Latino cancer research network led by the IHPR.

### Report: Latinos, blacks lag behind in health in Boston

Boston’s Latino and black residents continue to suffer disproportionately high levels of chronic disease, mortality and poorer health than white residents, according to a [report](#) on the city’s 2009 health report. Latinos and blacks higher rates of heart disease, obesity and asthma, compared to white residents.

### Latino agency trains people to advise others on health issues

*Progreso Latino*, a multicultural community-based agency in Rhode Island,

recently graduated its first group of students in the Blue Health Angels Program, which trains community members to advise others on health issues, the *Providence Business News* [reports](#). The graduates will work in the agency’s Wellness Center and advise local Latinos about health improvement.

### Study: Medicare coverage linked to reduced health disparities

Obtaining Medicare coverage is associated with significant reductions in health disparities, according to a new Commonwealth Fund-supported [study](#) in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. The authors found that at age 65, when people become eligible for health care coverage under the Medicare program, differences in health by race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status were reduced significantly.

### Report: Majority of health disparities have stayed the same or worsened

A new report published by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) finds that health care disparities across at least 60 percent of quality measures stayed

the same or worsened between 2000 to 2001 and 2005 to 2006, AHA News Now reports. [The report](#) suggests that disparities persist in health care quality and access, that the magnitude of disparities vary within subpopulations, and that some disparities exist across multiple populations. For 19 of the 34 core report measures of quality, Hispanics had poorer quality of care than non-Hispanic Whites. Hispanics were less likely to receive recommended care for heart attack, and obese Hispanics were less likely to receive advice about exercise than whites.

### Illinois hospitals set up video-translation services for non-English speakers

To better serve an increasingly non-English speaking patient population, several Illinois hospitals are implementing a video translation service, the *Chicago Tribune* [reports](#). The Illinois Video Interpreter Network is a live video system that provides medical institutions with translation services in 150 languages through a portable screen attached to mobile cart. Hospital administrators say the program helps reduce the risk of medical errors.

# Smokeless tobacco use surges among boys, especially in rural areas

Use of snuff and chewing tobacco by U.S. adolescent boys, particularly in rural areas, has surged this decade, a federal agency said in a recent report, according to Reuters [news](#).

The report, from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, suggests that between 2002 and 2007, smokeless tobacco use among adolescent boys increased 30 percent. Use of smokeless tobacco among boys ages 12 to 17 increased from 3.4 percent in 2002 to 4.4 percent in 2007.

Smokeless tobacco use was most common among adolescent boys living in rural areas of the country and among American Indians and Alaska Natives.

“This trend toward more smokeless tobacco use by kids is of great concern,”

Danny McGoldrick, vice president for research at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids advocacy group, told Reuters.

The findings were based on government surveys in which about 68,000 people nationwide were questioned annually. Among health and substance use questions, they were asked whether they had used snuff or chewing tobacco in the previous month.

More than half of the adolescent smokeless tobacco users also were current cigarette smokers, and the figure jumped to two-thirds in ages 18 to 25, according to the report.

The researchers note that the spike in smokeless tobacco use correlates with an uptick in spending and marketing of new products by smokeless tobacco companies.

## Latino tobacco network seeks survey respondents

The Indiana-based National Latino Tobacco Control Network is conducting a [survey](#) to collect data on existing tobacco projects being carried out at the local level in order to assess the needs for technical assistance and training. The survey also aims to identify educational materials or curriculum that can be shared to replicate promising practices.

## NCI guide helps Latinos stop smoking

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has developed an [evidence-based guide](#) for Hispanic populations to provide information to help smokers quit. The guide, a 35-page booklet, contains culturally based information and strategies in Spanish for those who quit or are thinking about quitting.

## USC gets grant to develop tobacco education materials for California minorities

The University of Southern California has been awarded \$1.07 million by the California Department of Public Health to set up a tobacco education materials development laboratory. [The lab](#) will develop and test culturally relevant materials for priority populations, including Latinos, for the state’s tobacco control programs.

## Tobacco prevention coalition

► *Continued from Page 1*

of cessation through community presentations, brochures, news stories and billboards that feature local people’s real stories about how they improved their lives by quitting smoking,” said Dr. Luis Velez of the IHPR.

Dr. Velez, who is leading the IHPR’s efforts in the coalition along with social science research associate Courtney Denton, said the coalition is much-needed.

In San Antonio, more middle-school students were smokers than those in the rest of Texas (13.6 to 9.5 percent) and more adults smoked, too (18.3 to 17.9 percent), according to 2006 survey results. That puts them at higher risk for lung and other cancers, impotence, diminished overall health, and premature death.

“And that’s not to mention second-hand



**Luis Velez**



**Courtney Denton**

smoke, which kills 53,000 non-smoking Americans a year,” Dr. Velez said.

Dr. Velez hopes many people will join in the coalition’s efforts.

In addition to the IHPR and local health district, coalition partners include: the

American Cancer Society; American Heart Association; American Lung Association; Alamo Area Health Education Center (AHEC); San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, regional Prevention Resource Center; Texas Department of State Health Services, Regional Office; and the University Health System (Texas Diabetes Institute).

To get involved with the coalition, e-mail [info@tobaccofreeSA.org](mailto:info@tobaccofreeSA.org) or visit its [Web site](#).

If you are interested in quitting, call the ACS Quitline at 1-877-YES-QUIT to speak with trained counselors and receive personally tailored services.

“We really hope to make a difference in preventing smoking and improving the health of San Antonio residents,” Dr. Velez said.

**Report: NCI president’s cancer panel**

The NCI has released the *NCI President’s Cancer Panel Report*. To reduce the toll of cancer, the [panel’s recommendations](#) call for: 1) making reduction of the cancer burden a national priority, 2) ensuring that all Americans have timely access to needed health care and disease prevention measures, and 3) ending the scourge of tobacco in the U.S.

**Report: U.S. cancer statistics**

The 1999-2005 *United States Cancer Statistics (USCS): Incidence and Mortality* report is now available online. [The report](#) includes the official federal statistics on cancer incidence from registries that have high-quality data, and cancer mortality statistics for each year and 2001-2005 combined. Graphs of the top 10 cancers, state vs. national comparisons, and cancers ranked by state are some of the features available.

**Review: ACS guidelines and issues in cancer screening**

Each year, the American Cancer Society (ACS) publishes a report summarizing its recommendations for early cancer detection, data and trends in cancer screening rates, and select issues related to cancer screening. This year’s [report](#), published in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, is titled *Cancer Screening in the United States, 2009: A Review of Current American Cancer Society Guidelines and Issues in Cancer Screening*.

**Kaiser fact sheet**

The Kaiser Family Foundation in April issued an updated [fact sheet](#) showing variations across states and racial and ethnic groups for six key health and health care indicators. The fact sheet provides a quick glance at disparities in rates of infant mortality, diabetes-related mortality and AIDS cases in all 50 states.

**Toolkit for translated health materials**

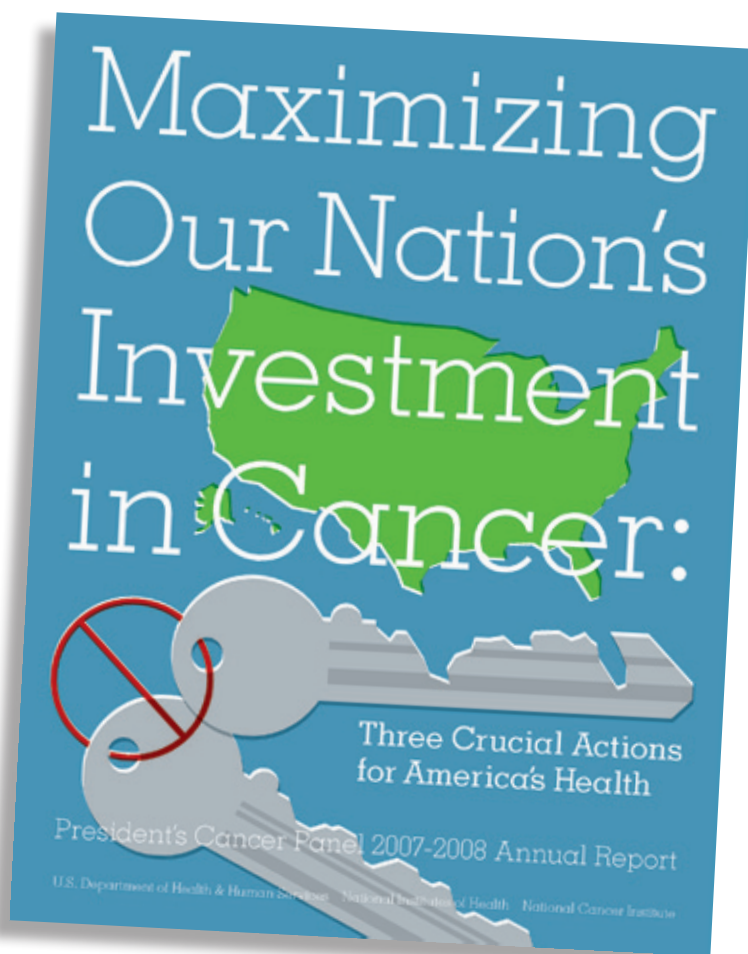
The *More Than Words Toolkit Series*, a [new resource](#) developed by *Hablamos Juntos* with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, clarifies the translation process and provides a roadmap to help health care organizations improve the quality of their translated materials to get better results. Quality translated health materials can serve as valuable communications tools for both providers and non-English-speaking patients, and can help to ensure the delivery of safe, effective and high-quality care.

**Toolkit for reaching out to youths**

The federal government offers several [interactive tools](#) to reach out and support youth, form effective partnerships, assess community assets, understand risk behaviors, map local and federal resources, and search for evidence-based youth programs.

**California cancer call center**

The Northern California Cancer Center operates a [call center](#) for “Cancer Detection Programs: Every Woman Counts,” a cancer detection program in the California Department of Public Health that provides California’s medically underserved women access to screening and diagnostic services for breast and cervical cancer.



The call center, which refers low-income California women to free breast and cervical cancer screening, is at 1-800-511-2300.

**New online family health resource**

A new health tool from the Surgeon General’s office can help doctors provide better care for families. The Surgeon General’s new [Web portal](#), called *My Family Health Portrait*, makes it easier for families to share their health histories with their physicians. The resource is available in Spanish or English, and provides a health history that can be shared with family members and family health care practitioners.

**CRCHD redesigns Web site**

The NCI’s Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) has unveiled its recently redesigned [Web site](#). New features include the addition of a diversity training section, an introduction and overview of the Minority Institution/Cancer Center Partnership (MI/CCP) [program](#) and its grantees, and information about the Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences [program](#) that supports a continuum of diversity training and career development opportunities.

**Acceso Hispano redesigns Web site**

*Acceso Hispano*, which aims to empower underserved communities to improve their quality of life, has updated its new, bilingual, and fully interactive [Web site](#). The redesign aims to communicate to, from, and in between the Hispanic community, service providers, and stakeholders. The site now features a Hispanic public affairs events calendar, research findings, news, testimonies, discussion forums, and other functions.

## Funding

### Research supplements to promote diversity

Limited to principal investigators holding specific types of NIH research grants, funds are available for administrative **supplements** to improve the diversity of the research work force by supporting and recruiting students, post-doctorates and eligible investigators from underrepresented groups. Administrative supplements must support work within the scope of the original project. Applications can be received at any time.

### NCI administrative supplements

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is **inviting applications** for administrative supplements that are consistent with the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Grantees with active NIH research grants may request administrative supplements to accelerate the tempo of scientific research on active grants.

### Komen grants in disparities

Susan G. Komen for the Cure has announced funding for the *Career Catalyst Research*, *Career Catalyst in Disparities Research*, and *Investigator-Initiated Research grants*. The career catalyst grants will fund up to \$450,000 over three years to support combined programs of research and mentoring that will further research independence for early-career scientists. The investigator-initiated grants will fund up to \$600,000 over three years to explore new ideas and approaches in reducing breast cancer incidence and/or mortality. For all grants, a pre-application is due by 8 p.m. ET June 1, 2009.

### Health communication strategies & dietary behaviors grants

The funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for Impact of Health Communication Strategies on Dietary Behaviors (R21) encourages applications for research projects on the development and implementation of effective communication strategies related to diet and health. Specifically, this **funding opportunity** aims to promote interdisciplinary research at multiple levels (e.g., individual, community, environment, and policy) and across diverse populations to evaluate effective communication approaches for changing dietary behaviors. The deadline is June 16, 2009.

### 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 develop critical leadership skills of 270 early- to mid-career professionals in community-based, nonprofit health organizations serving vulnerable populations through a 16-month curriculum. The **program** will be delivered in nine priority communities on a staggered schedule. The next opening is for Eastern North Carolina and is available from June 26 to Aug. 14, 2009.

### Grants to benefit vulnerable communities

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Local Funding Partnerships program forges relationships between the RWJF and local grant makers to fund promising, original projects that can significantly improve the health of vulnerable people in their communities. The program has issued a **call for proposals (CFP)** for grants. The deadline for applications is July 7, 2009.

### CFP: Active Living Research, Healthy Eating Research

Though its national programs Active Living Research and Healthy Eating Research, RWJF has issued a CFP to support time-sensitive, opportunistic studies to evaluate changes in policies or environments that promote healthy eating and increase physical activity. **The grants** will focus on evaluating those changes that can reach children at highest risk for obesity, including African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian-American and Pacific Islander children (ages 3 to 18) who live in low-income communities or those with limited access to affordable healthy foods and/or safe opportunities for physical activity. The deadline for submitting a letter of intent is July 17, 2009.

### 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 Dec. 31, 2009.



## IHPR hosts M.D. Anderson researcher

**D**aniel Hughes, Ph.D., an instructor at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, spoke about his obesity and cancer research at an IHPR-sponsored seminar April 27, 2009, at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Hughes, who has a strong background in exercise science in relation to behavioral research interventions, is involved in several research projects on physical

activity. His doctoral dissertation research was on physical activity and stress in Hispanic breast cancer survivors, and he received a National Cancer Institute Mentored Career Development Award to further his research in this area. His talk, entitled “Promoting Exercise in Hispanic Cancer Survivors: Theory to Practice,” described his research and a behavioral model he is testing to “get more people to be more active for more of the time.”

## 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.

### USMBHA annual meeting

The United States-Mexico Border Health Association (USMBHA) [annual meeting](#), Human Security: A New Border Response, is set for June 3-5, 2009, in El Paso, Texas. The meeting aims to promote the dissemination of binational and border-wide research, formulate and establish binational health policies for the border region, support epidemiological development and manage border-wide and binational health and environmental programs.

### Breast cancer telephone workshop en español

A free [telephone education workshop](#) June 9, 2009, will focus on *Breast Cancer and Hispanic Women / El cáncer de seno y las mujeres hispanas*. The teleconference, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. ET, will be conducted solely in Spanish. The event is part of a series, *The Seventh Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through & Beyond Cancer*. The next part in the series, *Survivors Too: Family, Friends and Loved*



### Summer institute in San Antonio

The 2009 Summer Institute on Evidence-Based Practice, *Achieving Excellence with Evidence*, is set for July 9-11, 2009, in San Antonio. The [institute](#) prepares healthcare providers from multiple disciplines for an increasing role in evidence-based practice to improve healthcare.

### Weight of the Nation conference

On July 27-29, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity will host its inaugural [conference](#) on obesity prevention and control, *Weight of the Nation*, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. *Weight of the Nation* is designed to provide a forum to highlight progress in the prevention and control of obesity through policy and environmental strategies and is framed around four intervention settings: community, medical care, school, and workplace.

### San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium

The 32nd Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, an international [scientific symposium](#) for interaction and exchange among basic scientists and clinicians in breast cancer, is set for Dec. 9-13, 2009, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. The symposium is presented by the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, the American Association for Cancer Research, and Baylor College of Medicine.

*Ones: Managing the Fatigue of Caregiving*, will take place June 23 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. ET. Pre-registration is required.

### Childhood obesity conference

The 5th biennial Childhood Obesity Conference, a gathering of more than 1,800 professionals focused on the prevention of childhood obesity, is scheduled for June 9-12, 2009, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles. [Conference](#) attendees will discuss the most pressing and innovative issues related to childhood obesity.

### Texas conference on community-level chronic disease

The *Meeting the Challenges of Chronic Disease at the Community Level* [conference](#), for Texas stakeholders working to reduce chronic disease through primary and secondary prevention programs and practices, is set for June 10-11, 2009, at the MCC Conference Center in Austin, Texas. Many respected state and national leaders in chronic disease will speak, and continuing education for multiple disciplines is available.

## 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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