Health Disparities Program Unveils New Website, Scholarships

SAN ANTONIO (Oct. 1, 2014) – A regional health disparities research program has unveiled a new website and scholarship offerings under the direction of Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez, interim chair of epidemiology and biostatistics and director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Dr. Ramirez’ program is called GMaP Region 4.

It is one of six regional GMaPs (or Transdisciplinary Geographic Management Programs) funded by the National Cancer Institute to bring together local networks of investigators to collaboratively identify and address health disparities in regions across the country.

GMaP Region 4 is enhancing local communication, recruitment, and evaluation capacity to support health disparities research, training and outreach in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Wyoming, Utah and Nebraska.

Visit the program’s new website to learn more.

Regional researchers can join the program and/or apply for new scholarship opportunities:

- **Early Career Cancer Health Disparities Researcher Scholarship Award**: This award supports career development in cancer health disparities research by paying for conference (i.e., registration, travel, lodging, etc.), workshop, journal/publication fees, and other expenses (deadline: Oct. 14, 2014).
- **Specific Aims Grant Review Program**: This award enables early-career scholars, who are preparing a research grant application, to get valuable feedback from senior researchers (deadline: July 1, 2015).

“GMaP Region 4 is working hard to target our regional health disparities and increase the pipeline of researchers who are tackling those very disparities,” said Ramirez, the Dielmann Chair in Health Disparities Research & Community Outreach and the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Endowed Chair in Cancer Health Care Disparities at the Health Science Center.

GMaP Region 4 was established in 2009 by the National Cancer Institute through Dr. Ramirez’ Latino cancer research program, *Redes En Acción*. 
So far, Region 4 has established four subcommittees, identified regional theme areas for future research, and developed an implementation plan to chart the future course of research, training and infrastructure development in the region.

It also has completed a clinical trial education and outreach project that led to a manual, Clinical Trials Outreach for Latinos, to stimulate minority participation in clinical trials.

The GMaP Region 4 leadership team also includes Kip Gallion, assistant professor of epidemiology and biostatistics and IHPR deputy director, and Rose A. Treviño-Whitaker, an IHPR research assistant and Region 4 project coordinator.

For current news from the IHPR at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio, please visit our blog or follow us on Twitter @SaludToday.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, one of the country’s leading health sciences universities, ranks in the top 3 percent of all institutions worldwide receiving federal funding. Research and other sponsored program activity totaled $228 million in fiscal year 2010. The university’s schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry, health professions and graduate biomedical sciences have produced approximately 26,000 graduates. The $744 million operating budget supports eight campuses in San Antonio, Laredo, Harlingen and Edinburg. For more information on the many ways “We make lives better,” visit www.uthscsa.edu.

The Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio investigates the causes and solutions to the unequal impact of cancer and chronic disease among certain populations, including Latinos, in San Antonio, South Texas and the nation. The IHPR, founded in 2006, uses evidence-guided research, training and community outreach to improve the health of those at a disadvantage due to race/ethnicity or social determinants, such as education or income. Visit the IHPR online at http://ihpr.uthscsa.edu or follow its blog at http://www.saludtoday.com/blog.