Ramirez to Help Prestigious Organizations Explore Environment/Cancer Relationship

SAN ANTONIO (June 14, 2010)—Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH, director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and a researcher at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center, is serving as liaison between Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) for their new review of the effect of chemicals and the environment in breast cancer risk.

Komen is investing more than $1.25 million for the IOM to assess the strength of the science on possible links between breast cancer and the environment and also consider evidence-based preventive actions women might take to reduce their cancer risk.

The study also will develop recommendations for future research in this area.

Ramirez, elected to the IOM in 2007 and also a member of Komen’s Scientific Advisory Board, will serve as liaison between the groups and partake in the IOM’s new 15-expert committee that will meet periodically on the topic this year.

“I’m extremely excited to help these organizations take a closer look at the role that specific environmental factors place in breast cancer,” Ramirez said. “This effort will examine available evidence and try to find answers regarding the links between the environment, chemicals, lifestyle and cancer risk and development.”

Dr. Ramirez has spent 30 years directing many state-, federal- and privately-funded research programs focused on human and organizational communication to reduce chronic disease and cancer health disparities affecting Latinos. Under her leadership, the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The UT Health Science Center investigates cancer disparities among Latinos, including research on cancer control and prevention, cancer survivorship, smoking prevention, obesity and much more.

Ramirez also is the Dielmann Chair in Health Disparities Research and Community Outreach and the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Endowed Chair in Cancer Healthcare Disparities and Outreach at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC), the National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center in San Antonio. She also co-directs the Cancer Prevention and Population Science research program at the CTRC.