San Antonio teens use photos to expose local tobacco problems

Memorial High School student Victor Hernandez points to his photograph of a smoked cigarette butt lodged in the crack of a sidewalk.

The photo caption: “Cigarettes get between everything.”

“People might dream to be a doctor, lawyer – then cigarettes get introduced,” Victor said of the photo’s meaning. “With every cigarette it gets harder and harder to quit, you get closer to death. Your original dream goes away.”

Victor is one of eight students from Kennedy and Memorial high schools in San Antonio who recently partook in a “Photovoice Smoke-Free” project, where students took photos and wrote captions to visually describe tobacco problems to policy-makers.

The project, sponsored by the San Antonio Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition, paired tobacco prevention researchers at the Institute for Health Promotion Research at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio with students in the Youth Against Gang Activity program of the Family Service Association, a San Antonio nonprofit.

For several Saturdays over the past few months, the students studied photography, walked their neighborhoods and took pictures.

Then they met to discuss their photos, write captions and create presentation boards.

“The kids are telling us the story. They’re telling us what the problem is. They’re living the problem,” Ricardo Espinoza of the Family Service Association.

Tobacco indeed is a big problem in San Antonio. Statistics show that middle-school youths in San Antonio have a higher percentage of tobacco use (13.6 percent) than their counterparts in the rest of Texas (9.5 percent).

“A lot of people say, ‘Oh, don’t smoke, and this and that.’ But it’s in our homes,” said Christian Alarcon-Avila, a Photovoice participant from Kennedy High School. “It’s not just in advertisements and commercials. It’s in our homes. It’s all around us.”

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Director’s Corner

From IHPR Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez

Watch closely here as some Latinos moms watch their daughters’ soccer game while tackling an unusual conversation topic – cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine.

The moms openly tout the benefits of the vaccine in preventing cancer.

Latinos too often neglect their higher risk of cancer, so this public service announcement (PSA) and five others like it are vital to promote screening and early detection among Latinos, who suffer unequal burdens of breast, cervical and colorectal cancers.

The six new PSAs are airing on TV stations across the country.

The 30-second TV spots, each in English and Spanish, encourage Latinos to learn more about screening tests available for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers by calling the NCI’s Cancer Information Service (CIS) toll-free telephone number (1-800-4CANCER).

The PSAs are culturally appropriate and developed by cancer experts at Redes En Acción: The National Latino Cancer Research Network, a National Cancer Institute (NCI) initiative that is based at the IHPR.

Perhaps you’ve already seen the new PSAs on TV. If not, I urge you to visit our SaludToday Web site and check them out – everyone could use a reminder to protect themselves and their family from cancer.

As always, please feel free to e-mail us at ihpr@uthscsa.edu.

Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez
Director, IHPR

IHPR Faculty Profile: Alan Holden

Evan Holden battled schizophrenia and drug addiction for 30 years.

His brother, Alan Holden, and other family members struggled to adapt to Evan's issues. Health professionals tried but had little success helping Evan over the years.

Alan dedicated himself to a career trying to help people like his brother.

“It fueled my interest in improving the health of people everywhere,” said Holden, who today has 25 years of experience in behavioral science, health promotion, epidemiology and statistics. “I was driven to find ways to prevent illness and promote health because they are so relevant to so many people, and are fundamental to defining myself as part of the human condition.”

Today, Dr. Holden uses his experience to research public health issues at the Institute for Health Promotion Research at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. He also works in obstetrics and gynecology at the Health Science Center.

His educational background in quantitative anthropology and public health epidemiology directs his specific interests in clinical and community-based settings with a focus on health disparities. His areas of research include large cohorts and clinical trials to very small samples involving cancer, disease transmission, reproductive outcomes and biological, psychological and behavioral health aspects.

At the IHPR, Dr. Holden’s main task is coordinating the Region 4 Geographic Management Program (GMaP), an initiative of the National Cancer Institute’s Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities.

The GMaP aims to create state-of-the-art regional networks dedicated to cancer health disparities research, training, awareness and care.

“I joined the expanding IHPR because it affords the greatest opportunity for me to contribute to the improvement of the public health,” Holden said. “I hope to see the IHPR continue to expand the scope of health problems it deals with, and to empower greater numbers of people as our research progresses. We must firmly establish our feet in both worlds – professional and public.”

Fun Facts

Hometown: Levittown, Pennsylvania
Family: Mother, Patricia; older brother, Evan; younger sister, Diana
Hobbies: Reading, writing, gardening, tinkering with innovations of all sorts, and “spending time with my best pals, two Labrador Retriever pups”
Favorite food(s): Thai curry – “The spicier the better”
Favorite movie(s): The Brave One; the original TV series The Twilight Zone
Favorite book(s): Darwin’s Radio by David Brin
Dozens of cancer prevention advocates called for greater research to lessen Latinos' future cancer burden at the 10th-annual National Steering Committee Meeting of Redes En Acción: The National Latino Cancer Research Network, based at the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.

The meeting, from March 3-5 in San Antonio, explored nuevas fronteras in cancer research and marked Redes' 10th anniversary.

"Redes has achieved a great deal in 10 years to improve Latino cancer outcomes, but there is more to do," said Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez, director of Redes and the IHPR at the UT Health Science Center. "We know that the collaborations we've formed, and the rising stars we've launched, are going to continue pushing the boundaries of research and technology to improve U.S. Latino health."

Redes, funded in 2000 by the National Cancer Institute, created a network of more than 1,800 researchers, health workers and communities to stimulate cancer control research, training and awareness among Latinos, the nation's largest minority group.

Latinos suffer high rates of certain cancers and worse outcomes in others.

At the meeting, experts addressed Latino cancer issues, including diet and exercise trends in cancer interventions and public health issues along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Experts also talked about strategies to help Latinos live, with, through and beyond cancer.

Also featured was Redes' wide-ranging impact, from successful research to training more than 200 future cancer researchers and educating Latino communities through more than 2,000 events and dozens of bilingual educational materials.

"I think we've empowered Latinos to get healthy and inspired researchers to strive for new ways to prevent Latino cancer," Dr. Ramirez said.

IHPR’s Redes meeting spotlights Latino cancer research

IHPR Articles and Presentations

**Articles/Reports:**

**Presentations:**

IHPR launches ENLACE intervention

The IHPR recently launched a new, culturally tailored intervention in South Texas’ Hidalgo County and a region of South Carolina to try and increase Latinas’ minutes-per-week of moderate to vigorous physical activity. The project, called ENLACE, is led by IHPR researcher Dr. Deborah Parra-Medina. Before the intervention kicked off in February 2010, Dr. Parra-Medina and her colleagues spent more than a year conducting interviews and focus groups to identify and understand factors that influence physical activity behaviors among Latinas in the two regions. Regular physical activity can help prevent obesity and its related health complications, such as diabetes and heart disease, which are more prominent in Latinas.
Medical students volunteer to help underserved South Texas residents get health care

South Texas colonias are rural villages that often resemble a third-world environment – makeshift houses, no electricity and no running water.

Residents there often lack health insurance, and don’t see a doctor until it’s too late.

That’s why Frontera de Salud, a volunteer group of medical students at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, spend free time delivering health care – such as exams and screenings – to colonias residents in Laredo, Corpus Christi and Robstown.

On Feb. 13, Frontera had 10 students do a health fair at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Church in Laredo, screening nearly 50 people who might not otherwise have had care.

“To practice what we learn in class, to gain trust from a welcoming community and to know we can make a small difference in someone’s life is one of the best ways to prevent becoming disoriented in our high-paced life,” said Toral Parikh, a Health Science Center medical student.

“Overweight Teens”

IHPR News Briefs

IHPR adds faculty, staff to enhance research efforts

The IHPR has added three new staff members and one new faculty to kick-start several new research projects. Dr. Alan Holden, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The UT Health Science Center, joined the IHPR in February 2010 to helm the new Region 4 Geographic Management Program (GMap). Dora Alicia Gonzalez, a project coordinator, and Rose Annie Trevino, a social science research associate, are helping conduct public health and health promotion research in South Texas’ districts. Dr. Cynthia Mojica of the Health Science Center’s Cancer Institute featured Dr. Hughes’ story in its grantee spotlight.

IHPR researcher rises from slums to help the poor access cancer treatment

IHPR researcher Dr. Daniel Hughes, whose childhood in the slums of Mexico City gave him a burning desire to go to school and succeed in life, now helps the poor obtain better cancer treatment and examines Latino health disparities. The National Cancer Institute featured Dr. Hughes’ story in its grantee spotlight.

For Girl Scouts, photos are first step to boosting physical activity

On Feb. 15, 2010, Girl Scouts from the San Antonio and Edgewood independent school districts started their involvement in an IHPR Photovoice project. The girls split into small groups and took photos outside the Avenida Guadalupe Girl Scout Center in San Antonio’s West Side – all to answer the question, “What makes it easy and what makes it hard to be physically active in your neighborhood?” They will go on several more excursions before presenting their photos to the community. IHPR researchers Dr. Deborah M. Parra-Medina and Laura Esparza, will use the photos and other community feedback to design an intervention that increases moderate to vigorous physical activity among adolescent Hispanic girls. Watch a KSAT-TV news report or read a news release about the project.

Watch a video of Dr. Parra-Medina talking about Latina teen health by clicking on the “Overweight Teens” segment.
San Antonio health officials, restaurants, others team to tackle childhood obesity

Given the high obesity rates in San Antonio, several local groups are teaming up to reduce childhood obesity through policy and environmental changes.

The Healthy Active San Antonio partnership, led by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District thanks to a new grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities program, will aim to expand residents’ use of school gyms, playgrounds and other facilities outside of regular hours.

The group also will push to have new development and redevelopment projects incorporate complete streets design into their planning. And it will continue to work with local restaurants on healthier menus.

“San Antonio is known as a fun place to live and a great place to visit, but it has not always embraced healthy behaviors as they relate to physical activity and food,” said Dr. Bryan J. Alsip, assistant director of the Metro Health District. “As in any community, the more barriers that are present for healthy eating and active living, the more difficult the challenge. We are looking to remove those obstacles and get the community to take advantage of new and healthier opportunities.”

Healthy Active San Antonio will work throughout Bexar County, focusing heavily on San Antonio’s largely Latino, largely low-income West Side.

Alsip said the partnership hopes that increases in physical activity and nutrition will translate into grassroots and political support for policy changes to promote healthy eating and active living.

News Briefs

Texas tobacco prevention coalitions increasing quitline calls

From 2008 to 2009, Texas counties with state-funded tobacco prevention and control coalitions had 20 percent more monthly calls to the American Cancer Society’s Texas Quitline than counties with only a media campaign or neither a campaign or coalition. Bexar County had a 197 percent increase in quitline calls. For more info on the local coalition, go here.

Articles focus on Texas’ rural health difficulties

The Texas Tribune recently published a series of articles that takes an in-depth look at how dozens of rural Texas counties have no primary care doctors, hospitals or pharmacies. It’s a void that can contribute to poor health and even death. For the articles, see Part 1: Far From Care, Part 2: The Trauma Hole, Part 3: Shrinking Rural Ranks and Part 4: Rural Recruitment.

Texas academy aims to promote diversity

The Journal of the National Medical Association features the Undergraduate Medical Academy, an initiative of Prairie View A&M University and Texas A&M Health Sciences Center to increase the pipeline of underrepresented minority students and promote diversity in the physician workforce.

Bingo event helps spread breast cancer awareness

The Martinez Street Women’s Center in San Antonio recently started hosting a monthly “breast cancer bingo” event sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Foundation for the Cure, the San Antonio Express-News reports. The event is a unique way to teach players about self-exams, clinical exams, nutrition and prevention tips.
Study: Mexican Americans are most active in U.S.

Mexican Americans are tops in meeting national health goals for physical activity, according to a new study that challenges previous research that found whites are the most likely to be physically active, HealthDay reports.

Researchers at the University of Chicago and Arizona State University analyzed data collected from 10,000 people in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Each participant wore an electronic device to record their activity levels.

Nearly 27 percent of Mexican Americans achieved a national goal of getting at least 30 minutes of moderate activity five days a week, or vigorous activity for 20 minutes at least three days a week. The exercise goal was met by 20 percent of whites and 15 percent of blacks, according to the study in the February American Journal of Public Health.

Prior studies based on self-reported data found that this physical activity target was achieved by 36 percent of whites and 25 percent of blacks and Mexican Americans.

Study author Sandra Ham of the University of Chicago said many Mexican Americans and other Hispanics may not report all their physical activity on surveys because they often have manual labor jobs and most surveys don't ask about physical activity at work.

“The underreporting is so remarkable that by understanding it, we can change how we think about disparities across racial and ethnic groups and among people with different education and economic backgrounds.”

News Briefs

Minorities not treated at higher-quality centers
Minority patients in New York City receive less specialized surgical care than white patients, a new study found, HealthDay reports. The study, in the Archives of Surgery, showed that, compared with white patients, treatment at high-volume hospitals by high-volume surgeons was lower by 11.8 percentage points for black patients, 8 percentage points for Asian patients and 7 percentage points for Hispanic patients.

Physicians: Language and cultural barriers hurting patient care
Nearly half of U.S. physicians say language or cultural barriers are obstacles to providing high-quality patient care, according to a study by the Center for Studying Health System Change. About 48 percent of all physicians in 2008 reported difficulties communicating with patients because of language or cultural barriers.

Obesity risk higher among Hispanics, blacks
Risk factors for childhood obesity begin before birth and affect blacks and Hispanics more than whites, according to a new study in Pediatrics, HealthDay reports. Researchers, led by Salud America! National Advisory Committee member Dr. Elsie Taveras, said that preventive measures should be taken at the earliest stages of a child’s life.

Spanish-speaking moms less likely to turn on TV
Young children of Latino moms whose main language is Spanish watch less TV than children of Latino moms who speak mostly English, HealthDay reports. The study, in the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, found that children of English-speaking Latino mothers watched nearly 2.5 hours of TV per day, compared to about 1.5 hours for children of Spanish-speaking mothers.

Latino, black kids at higher risk for chronic conditions
Latino and black children have a higher risk of having a chronic health condition such as asthma or obesity, a new study found, HealthDay reports. The study, in the Journal of the American Medical Association, found that one of every two U.S. children now grapples at some time with a chronic health condition – one that lasts at least 12 months.

Younger Hispanic adults’ sleep habits linked to diabetes
Among black and Hispanic adults younger than 40, those who typically slept for five hours or less a night had a greater accumulation of belly fat over the next five years, versus those who averaged six or seven hours, according to a new study, Reuters reports. The findings indicate a lack of sleep can lead to weight gain and heightened risks for diabetes and heart disease.

Hispanics dominate San Diego HIV/TB cases
Hispanics account for 80 percent of the cases of tuberculosis/HIV co-infection in San Diego, a significant change in the racial profile of the disease, a new study found, HealthDay reports. The study, in the American Journal of Public Health, showed that Hispanic cases of TB/HIV significantly increased over the last 14 years, while white and black cases decreased.

Hispanic, black infants more likely to have HIV
Rates of HIV infection in infants are significantly higher among blacks and Hispanics than whites, and preventive measures are needed to reduce the disparity, a new government report says, HealthDay reports.
Community health workers (CHWs) often improve access to health care, the quality of care received and doctor-patient communication among medically underserved, low-income and minority populations.

The result is that “CHWs reduce overall health-related costs and are a cost-effective strategy for employers,” said Dr. Donald Dudley, director of the Patient Navigator Research Project (PNRP) at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Despite this track record, there are few CHWs in Texas and across the nation.

So the first San Antonio Community Health Worker Summit, held Jan. 22 and organized by the UT Health Science Center and other community partners, sought to develop sustainable strategies to employ CHWs and build a united CHW workforce.

“CHWs have tremendous benefits to the health care providers, patients and communities,” said Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez, director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at the Health Science Center. “Fostering a sense of community health workers, as a profession, would go a long way to bridging the patient-provider gaps across the nation.”

CHWs, also known as patient navigators or promotores in Spanish, are trained to promote good health in the communities where they live. They act as patient-provider liaisons and provide culturally appropriate health education to improve patient health and access to care.

CHWs are needed, according to summit keynote speaker Joan Cleary, because of vast health disparities among minorities. Latinos, for example, tend to have less income, education, health insurance and access to care, thus contributing to higher disease risk and rates.

“CHWs can…help solve chronic illnesses in an increasingly diverse U.S.,” said Cleary, vice president of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation.

The IHPR, for example, employs CHWs for several projects. A patient navigator works in South Texas to recruit children into pediatric hematologic/oncology clinical trials. The IHPR's national Latino cancer research program, Redes En Acción, funded by the National Cancer Institute, has patient navigators helping Latinas with abnormal breast screening results navigate the health care system and get speedier access to cancer care at six sites across the country.

At the summit, the IHPR, PNRP and 70 other representatives from South Texas health groups shared knowledge and strategies for building the field of CHWs. Participants offered examples and tips regarding helping underserved populations get better access to health care.

They met local CHWs to get an insider's look at the benefits they provide to the local community.

Summit planners – including the Area Health Education Center, Community Resources, the Health Collaborative and Northwest Vista College – and summit participants were excited to put a spotlight on this much-needed, yet fledgling occupation.

“I’m pleased to see all of these people in one room talking about the value of health promoters,” said Lourdes Rangel of the Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., in Laredo, Texas, which integrates promotores de salud into the care of diabetics.
PSAs on Latino cancer prevention

View the six new PSAs touting Latino cancer prevention in English or Spanish at the Institute for Health Promotion Research’s SaludToday Web site here. To request broadcast-quality formats of the PSAs, email us at saludtoday@uthscsa.edu.

Spanish-language cancer resources

The National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) advocates for quality cancer care for all Americans and provides tools to empower people to advocate for themselves. Its free publications and resources (many available in Spanish) include the award-winning Cancer Survival Toolbox. Find more information on NCCS here.

Spanish-language health Web site


Blog on Latino health

The Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) team has launched a blog focusing on Latino child and adult health, including issues of Latino cancer and childhood obesity.

Report on access-to-care issues

A new report from the Kaiser Family Foundation assesses Medicaid’s relative impact on racial and ethnic disparities in access to care. The report compares health care access for white, black and Hispanic children who were privately insured, uninsured or enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP.

A federal Hispanic/Latino profile

The U.S. Office of Minority Health has produced a “Hispanic/Latino” profile detailing Latinos’ population, health issues and barriers to care.

Federal obesity policy updates

The RWJF Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity sends weekly email updates on policy and legislative issues and federal agency news. To learn more about the Center, visit its Web site. Click on “Stay Informed” to sign up for the email updates.

News Briefs

Continued from Page 6

Latino child vaccine safety concerns persist

Some parents continue to have concerns about the safety of vaccines, the Baltimore Sun reports. More than half of the 1,552 parents said in a national survey that they have serious worries about adverse affects and overall vaccine safety. Latino parents were more likely than whites or blacks to believe that vaccines cause autism.

Latinas’ heart disease awareness still lacking

Just 44 percent of Hispanic women correctly identified heart disease as the leading killer of women, according to new research in Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes, HealthDay reports.

However, that number was significantly increased from 1997, when the rate of awareness was 20 percent. Study leaders say it’s important to have heart information available in Spanish.

Different Latino populations have different heart disease risks

A new study highlights key differences among Hispanic populations that doctors should take into account in trying to stem the risk of heart disease in Latinos, MedPage Today reports. Columbia University researchers found that Caribbean-origin Hispanics have greater prevalence of hypertension than Mexicans, whom among all the Hispanic subgroups tended to be more susceptible to diabetes.

Discrimination may lead to smoking in boys

Minority teen boys smoke more when they suffer discrimination, according to a new study, HealthDay reports. The study included 2,561 black and Hispanic teens, ages 12-19, from low-income U.S. households. About 25 percent of the teens reported discrimination within the previous six months, and 12 percent said they’d smoked within the previous 30 days.

Youth anti-smoking campaign uses video game PSAs

“Smoking makes you ‘stupidiota’” is the thought behind the new bi-cultural outreach campaign by DC Tobacco Free Families, which seeks to empower Latino youths to become the messengers and stewards of smoking prevention. Stupidiota features TV public service announcements (PSAs) inspired by the popular video games The Sims and World of War Craft.

Menthol cigarettes more addictive to U.S. minorities

Menthol cigarettes appear to be more addictive for black and Hispanic smokers than regular cigarettes, according to a new study in Preventive Medicine, HealthDay reports. About 48 percent of Hispanic adults who smoked menthol cigarettes were able to quit, versus 61 percent of Hispanics who smoked regular cigarettes.

Acculturation influences smoking cessation among Latino men

Latino men who are more adapted to U.S. culture are more likely to quit smoking than their less-acculturated counterparts, according to a study in Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention. The study examined 271 Latino smokers who called a Spanish-language smoking cessation quitline.

Spanish-language ads get message across for quitlines

It pays to advertise in Spanish if you want Spanish speakers to use a telephone helpline to quit smoking, Newswise reports. A study of usage of the Colorado QuitLine before and during a Spanish-language media campaign found that more Latinos called during and after the campaign and more who called quit smoking.

Intervention helps Latino parents quit smoking

Latino parents with an asthmatic child were more likely to quit smoking when they received a culturally-tailored intervention that provides feedback about how much secondhand smoke their children were exposed to, compared to parents who followed existing smoking cessation clinical guidelines, Medical News Today reports.

Hispanics bear brunt of childhood asthma

Hispanic children bear much of the burden of asthma, the most common childhood chronic disease, according to a new report by George Washington University researchers. The report, Changing Policy: The Elements for Improving Childhood Asthma Outcomes, also found that asthma adds about 50 cents to every health care dollar spent on children with asthma compared to children without.
Grant Roundup

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) compiles a variety of obesity-related research funding opportunities. Also, the U.S. Office of Minority Health has a roundup of funding opportunities. Also, Susan G. Komen for the Cure affiliates, working in concert with local organizations, have awarded more than $160 million in needs-based community grants.

Active Living Research

Active Living Research, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) national program, seeks applications for research grants to inform policy and environmental strategies for boosting youths' physical activity, decreasing their sedentary behaviors and preventing obesity. Applications are due April 14, 2010.

Local Funding Partnerships

The RWJF Local Funding Partnerships (LFP) program has issued a call for proposals. The program forges relationships between the RWJF and local grantmakers to fund promising, original projects that can significantly improve the health of vulnerable populations.

Teens’ photos expose tobacco problems

The students recently showcased their presentation boards to more than 50 friends, family members and health and policy officials at a ceremony Jan. 22, 2010, at the Alameda Koehler Auditorium in San Antonio.

Photos featured vivid scenes of burned-up piles of cigarette butts, “matchbox” business cards and empty cigarette packages and labels littering walkways, grassy areas.

“These pictures mean a lot about what we feel about this industry and our point of view,” said Holly Corriher of Kennedy High School.

Several health and policy dignitaries lauded the students work at the ceremony. In attendance were: members of the San Antonio Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition, a state-funded alliance of organizations that work together to prevent tobacco use in Bexar County; Amelie G. Ramirez, Dr.P.H., director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at the UT Health Science Center, a coalition partner; Luis Velez, Ph.D., Photovoice project facilitator and a researcher at the IHPR; Bryan Alsip, M.D., M.P.H., assistant director of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District; and Matthew Jones, legislative director for Texas State Rep. Joaquin Castro.

“We believe that participation helped these students identify important issues related to tobacco through group discussions and photographs and empowered the students to take social action within their community,” Dr. Ramirez said.

Holly Corriher of Kennedy High School poses next to her photo boards as part of the “Photovoice Smoke-Free” project.

Photovoice participant Jamika Rockett, a Kennedy High School student who attended the ceremony with her family, talked about her photo of a very young boy, standing sort of slumped over, eyes slightly rolled, mimicking how his father smoked.

“It’s sad because his dad – when he grows up, that’s who he wants to be,” she said.

Jamika’s mother, Rhoda Rockett, was inspired by how hard her daughter worked to create visually stunning photographs that showed how harmful smoking can be.

Rhoda even quit smoking because of Jamika’s work.

“I am very proud of her.”

Joann Aguirre of Kennedy High School said the Photovoice project will have a lasting effect on those who were involved and those who see the photos and captions.

“I want to thank everybody who was in it…for wanting to change things,” she said.
Seminars in translational research

Seminars in Translational Research (STRech) unite investigators from basic, clinical and social sciences to highlight the multiple stages of the scientific translation of research discoveries from the bench to the bedside and to the community. The seminars are a collaborative project between the University of Texas at San Antonio’s Research Centers in Minority Institutions, The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio’s Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science (IMS)/Novel Clinical and Translational Methodologies, and the UTSA-Health Science Center Joint Graduate Program in Biomedical Engineering. Seminars are at 4 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between campuses. For details, visit the seminar Web site.

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.

NHMA annual conference

The NHMA (National Hispanic Medical Association) 14th Annual Conference, Health Care Transformation to Expand Prevention and Health Promotion for Hispanic Communities, is scheduled for March 25-28, 2010, in Washington, D.C. IHPR Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez is a presenter.

SBM annual meeting

The Society for Behavioral Medicine (SBM) 31st Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions are set for April 7-10, 2010, in Seattle. IHPR Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez is a presenter.

Childhood obesity conference

The Greater Houston Area Health Education Center’s Uniting Against Childhood Obesity Conference, scheduled for April 26-29, 2010 in Houston, aims to increase awareness of ways to combat obesity and promote effective practice and policy changes.

Latino health equity conference

Familias En Acción has scheduled the 2010 and Beyond: Latino Health Equity Conference for May 20, 2010, in Portland, Oregon. The one-day conference will feature presentations by Latino health researchers. A special feature of the conference will be an interactive yoga and Zumba experience.

Cancer, Culture and Literacy

The Moffitt Cancer Center will host Cancer, Culture and Literacy: 7th Biennial Conference May 20-22, 2010, in Clearwater Beach, Fla. The conference contributes to our understanding of cancer awareness needs in consideration of social, cultural and literacy contexts.

Social determinants of mental health conference

On June 3-4, 2010, the Institute on Social Exclusion at the Adler School of Professional Psychology will host its annual conference at the Drake Hotel in Chicago. The conference theme is Social Determinants of Mental Health: From Awareness to Action.

Summer institute on evidence-based research

The 2010 Summer Institute on Evidence-based Practice, Frontline Improvement – How to Do It, How to Lead It, How to Inform It, is scheduled for July 8-10, 2010, in San Antonio. The institute prepares healthcare providers from multiple disciplines for an increasing role in evidence-based practice to improve healthcare.

Latino community leadership seminar

The Latino Community Leadership Seminar, scheduled for July 11-17, 2010, is an opportunity for 40 outstanding Hispanic students entering their senior year in high school who want to challenge and develop their commitment to the Latino community. For more information, e-mail precoll@nd.edu at the University of Notre Dame.

NAHN annual conference

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses 35th Annual Conference, Transforming Policy to Support Healthy Communities for Latinos, is scheduled July 22-24, 2010 in Washington, D.C. The conference will address issues related to Hispanic health disparities, health care research, policy development and more.

Latino cancer summit

Latinas Contra Cancer will host the 2010 National Latino Cancer Summit, focusing on Science Meets Service, Moving Forward Together, in San Francisco, Calif., on July 27-29, 2010. The summit will address cancer issues in the Latino community, along the cancer continuum – prevention, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and end of life. IHPR Director Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez is a presenter.

AACR annual conference on disparities

The 3rd Annual American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities is scheduled for Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, 2010, in Miami, Fla. The conference, aims to unite different health care professionals from a variety of disciplines to discuss the latest findings in their fields, foster collaborative interdisciplinary interactions and partnerships and stimulate the development of new research in cancer health disparities.

Livable cities conference


Breast cancer symposium

The 32nd Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium is scheduled for Dec. 8-12, 2010, in San Antonio. The symposium is presented by the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, the AACR and Baylor College of Medicine.