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Dr. Amelie Ramirez Named to Prestigious ‘Council of Experts’ on Cancer Prevention, Survivorship

Chair, which also features four former U.S. Surgeon Generals, will help achieve goals of the National Call to Action on Cancer Prevention and Survivorship

SAN ANTONIO, Aug. 17, 2010—Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH, director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, has been named to a prestigious Council of Experts that will help achieve the goals of the National Call to Action on Cancer Prevention and Survivorship.

The National Call to Action (NCTA) was unveiled in 2008 by cyclist and cancer prevention activist Lance Armstrong and four former U.S. Surgeon Generals—Drs. Antonia C. Novello, Joycelyn Elders, David Satcher and Richard H. Carmona—to outline a battle plan in the new war on cancer. The NCTA also serves as a roadmap for cancer survivors, health care professionals, policymakers, employers, educators, insurers, and scientists to identify the best strategies for cancer prevention and survivorship and make both cancer prevention and survivorship a national priority.

The new NCTA Council of Experts will provide strategic insight and guidance to the NCTA Community, a collective of individuals and organizations who share the mission of advancing the NCTA by conducting projects focused on improving the health and well-being of the whole person at all stages along the cancer continuum.

“I very honored and excited to join this Council of Experts,” said Dr. Ramirez, who also is co-director of the Cancer Prevention and Population Science research program at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center (CTRC), the UT Health Science Center’s National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center. “I believe this council will be able to make great strides in preventing cancer and increasing access to screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship resources throughout the cancer continuum.”

The formation of the Council of Experts is one outcome of the 2010 NCTA Workshop: Innovation in the War on Cancer on March 15, 2010, in Washington, D.C.

The Workshop Planning Committee agreed that the Canyon Ranch Institute, an Arizona-based group known for the expertise and integration of its medical and health
professionals, would serve as the administrative home of the aforementioned NCTA Community and identify a Council of Experts from among NCTA Community members.

The U.S. Surgeons Generals who led the development of the NCTA in 2008 all agreed to serve as *Ex Officio* members of the NCTA Council of Experts.

The NCTA Council of Experts members are:

- **David S. Alberts**, M.D., Director, Arizona Cancer Center, University of Arizona, Regents Professor of Medicine, Pharmacology, Nutritional Sciences and Public Health;
- **Jennifer Cabe**, M.A., CRI Executive Director and co-editor of the *National Call to Action on Cancer Prevention and Survivorship*;
- **Adam Michael Clark**, Ph.D., Director of Science and Policy, LIVESTRONG;
- **Peter Greenwald**, M.D., Dr.P.H., Director, Division of Cancer Prevention, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health; Assistant Surgeon General, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- **Gary Gurian**, Program Director, C-Change;
- **Susan Higginbotham**, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D., Director of Research, American Institute of Cancer Research;
- **Antonia C. Novello**, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., 14th U.S. Surgeon General (1990-1993) – *Ex Officio* Member;
- **Steven R. Patierno**, Ph.D., Executive Director, George Washington Cancer Institute, Professor of Pharmacology, Genetics and Urology, the George Washington University;
- **Amelie G. Ramirez**, Dr.P.H., Director, Institute for Health Promotion Research, Associate Director of Health Disparities Research, Cancer Therapy & Research Center, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio;
- **Christine L. Sardo**, M.P.H., R.D., CRI Partnerships and Policies Director – Council Chair
- **David Satcher**, M.D., Ph.D., FAAFP, FACPM, FACP, 16th United States Surgeon General (1998-2002), Director, The Satcher Health Leadership Institute and Center of Excellence on Health Disparities, Morehouse School of Medicine, Morehouse University – *Ex Officio* Member;
- **Laura Seeff**, M.D., Chief (Acting), Comprehensive Cancer Control Branch, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- **Kim Thiboldeaux**, President and CEO, Cancer Support Community; and
- **Mel Zuckerman**, Founder and Chairman, Canyon Ranch.
NCTA Council of Experts member Dr. Steven R. Patierno said, “The NCTA Council of Experts will assist the NCTA Community in sustaining the effort to eliminate the barriers that interfere with access to quality cancer treatment, cancer prevention and control, utilization of available screenings, access to and utilization of support services, and long-term survivorship. The task is enormous, but our collective resources and determination will have a significant impact on the fight against cancer.”

The goals of the overall NCTA Community are:

- Design and implement cancer prevention and survivorship programs and projects that align with one or more goals of the National Call to Action.
- Expand current cancer prevention and survivorship programs to incorporate one or more of the goals of the National Call to Action.
- Generate program evaluation and research data to inform future programming and provide a model for other NCTA Community members to develop in their organizations.
- Engage in efforts that provide a continuous evolution of the goals and strategies outlined in the National Call to Action.

“The NCTA Community is open to everyone and includes foremost leaders in cancer prevention and survivorship,” said Dr. Richard H. Carmona, Canyon Ranch Institute President and 17th U.S. Surgeon General. “By exchanging first-hand knowledge about research, public health and community programs, and national and global activities to prevent cancer and improve the survivorship experience, the NCTA Community is already advancing the goals of the National Call to Action. I am personally extending this invitation to all organizations to join us in this new war on cancer.”

To read the NCTA and join the NCTA Community, visit www.NCTAcancer.org or www.canyonranchinstitute.org/partnerships/NCTA.

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**About Canyon Ranch Institute**

Canyon Ranch Institute (CRI) is a non-profit organization that catalyzes the possibility of optimal health for all people by translating the best practices of Canyon Ranch and our partners to help educate, inspire, and empower *every person* to prevent disease and embrace a life of wellness. Canyon Ranch Institute and our partners believe in the power and possibility of a healthy world. More information is available at http://www.canyonranchinstitute.org.

**About the Institute for Health Promotion Research**

The Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) investigates the causes and solutions to the unequal impact of cancer and chronic disease among Latinos in San Antonio, South Texas and the nation. The IHPR, founded in 2006, is based at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio with a satellite office in Harlingen, Texas.
The IHPR uses evidence-guided research, training and community outreach to improve the health of those at a disadvantage due to race/ethnicity or social determinants. Visit the IHPR online at http://ihpr.uthscsa.edu.

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