SAN ANTONIO, Aug. 26, 2010—Question: Who might have insider information about Latinos that would pave the way for novel studies of cultural, linguistic and socioeconomic issues to prevent Latinos from suffering worse cancer outcomes?

Answer: A cancer researcher who also is a Latino.

To that end, the new Latino Training Program for Cancer Control Research (LTPCCR), led by the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio thanks to a new five-year, $1.57-million grant from the National Cancer Institute, aims to motivate Latinos to get their doctoral degree and become “insider researchers” in the field of cancer control among Latinos.

Right now, few Latinos pursue doctoral degrees or cancer research careers, causing a gap in the amount of researchers examining Latino cancer issues.

The LTPCCR will develop and organize a summer training institute, paid research internships, doctoral application support and mentoring to encourage Latino master’s-level students and professionals—from Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada—to complete doctoral programs and start careers in cancer control research.

“We hope that training new Latino researchers will increase the proportion of Latinos in cancer control research, which in turn will increase the amount of work being done to reduce cancer health inequalities that affect the Latino population,” said Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH, director of the IHPR at The UT Health Science Center.

The LTPCCR is modeled after an evidence-based training program, Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research (MTPCCR), which successfully conducted a summer training institute to increase racial/ethnic cancer researchers in California.

The LTPCCR will focus solely on Latinos.

The LTPCCR will recruit an annual cohort of 20 Latino master’s-level students or master’s-trained health professionals from Southern U.S. states.
All students will attend a five-day summer institute that showcases needs and opportunities for minority cancer control researchers. Participants also can apply for nine annual paid summer internships in cancer disparities research and three doctoral application support awards to offset the cost of applying to a doctoral program.

Once accepted into a doctoral program, the LTPCCR will offer a doctoral student retreat with academic, financial and psychosocial counseling and mentoring—the sort of safety net that can contribute to their successful graduation.

“We anticipate a minimum annual Latino enrollment into doctoral programs of at least 15 percent, and we believe at least 50% of doctoral students to report that reporting cancer control as their research focus,” Dr. Ramirez said. “And we expect the majority of these students to indicate that our program had a strong positive influence on these academic goals.”

**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](http://ihpr.uthscsa.edu).

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