

## FACT SHEET

### **Purpose**

By 2050, Latinos are expected to comprise 29% of the nation's population. Though the Latino community is one of the fastest growing populations in the United States, rates of economic and various indices of health disparities, such as access to health services and delayed treatment for chronic diseases, tend to be disproportionately higher in the Latino population. Additionally, Latinos are one of the most overweight groups in the US, contributing to complications of cardiovascular disease and its associated conditions in this population. There remains a need to address research questions concerning Latino health, most notably in cardiovascular health and shared risk factors associated with other health conditions, with factors of culture, country of origin, and socioeconomic status kept in mind. The purpose of the program "Investing in America's Future: Mentoring Researchers in Latino Health Disparities" is to mentor junior faculty, scientists and post-doctoral individuals pursuing these research interests in order to increase this field of research.

The program has been designed to emphasize:

- Successful grant writing
- Successful publication in competitive scientific journals
- A mentoring relationship with established faculty offering tailored guidance

### **Components**

The program consists of three components:

1. Summer Institutes  
A two-week Summer Institute on July 20 – August 3, 2012 is designed to establish mentoring relationships and offer an array of workshops and seminars to showcase the current research potential in CVD in Latino communities. Through the Institute, students will acquire the motivation, skills, and resources needed to successfully apply for outside funding, submit manuscripts for publications in peer-reviewed journals, and various other components of successful research. A second one-week summer institute will be held in 2013 for mentees to review their progress, network and supplement prior training.
2. Ongoing Mentoring  
Mentees and their assigned mentors will develop on-going communication and a mentoring relationship. Faculty mentors include role models and leaders in this field of research from around the country. Mentors and mentees will be assigned based on various components.
3. Mid-year Visit  
Mentees will be visited by assigned mentor at the half-year mark at mentee's home research institution.

### **Partner Institutions**

"Investing in America's Future: Mentoring Researchers in Latino Health Disparities" is funded by a four year (2010 – 2014) grant from DHHS National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) to San Diego State University Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) and Institute for Behavioral and Community Health (IBACH). Collaborating institutions include: the UTSA Health Sciences Center Institute for Health Promotion Research, Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center, Medical Effectiveness Research Center for Diverse Populations, Built Environment Assessment Training Institute, and Redes en Acción.

### **Leadership/Staff**

Overall direction of PRIDE is provided by Dr. John Elder, Distinguished Professor in the Division of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at San Diego State University Graduate School of Public, and Adjunct Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California; San Diego, and Dr. Gregory Talavera, Professor at GSPH and co-director of the Institute for Behavioral and Community Health. A team of faculty mentors from participating academic institutions are actively involved in all phases of planning and implementation.

**Mentors & Summer Institute Speakers:**

**Matthew Allison** (UCSD Department of Family and Preventive Medicine): His research focuses on measures of subclinical atherosclerosis and their relation to risk factors and cardiovascular outcomes.

**Elva Arredondo** (SDSU Graduate School of Public Health): Her research is centered on the cultural influences and psychosocial mediators of preventive practices.

**Guadalupe X. Ayala** (SDSU Graduate School of Public Health): Her research interests include: Latino health promotion, social, cultural, and developmental influences on chronic diseases.

**Hector Balcazar** (UTEP Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences): His research includes Latino birth outcomes, border health issues and cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention programs in Latinos.

**Mike Criqui** (UCSD Department of Family and Preventative Medicine): His research focuses on preventive medicine and chronic disease epidemiology, especially cardiovascular disease.

**John Elder** (SDSU Graduate School of Public Health and Director of IBACH): He has authored 3 books and over 290 other publications in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention, and behavioral epidemiology.

**Linda Gallo** (SDSU Department of Psychology): Her research interests include socioeconomic and ethnic disparities in physical and mental health, and psychological factors and health outcomes in patient populations.

**Carmen Isasi** (Albert Einstein College of Medicine Department of Epidemiology and Population Health): Her recent research has addressed behavioral parameters in relation to body weight in children.

**Lisa LaVange** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health): Statistical research areas include the design and analysis of clinical trials with an emphasis on trials carried out in a regulatory environment.

**Simon Marshall** (SDSU Department of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences): His interests include physical activity and public health, behavioral epidemiology, and measurements of physical activity and sedentary behavior.

**Thomas McKenzie** (SDSU Department of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences): His research focuses on promoting physical activity amongst children and youth through data-driven physical education programming.

**Frank Penedo** (University of Miami Department of Psychology): His research is primarily focused on evaluating the efficacy of group- and individual-based stress management interventions on reducing distress.

**Amelie Ramirez** (University of Texas, San Antonio and Director of Institute for Health Promotion). Her work centers around reducing chronic disease and cancer health disparities affecting Hispanics/Latinos.

**Scott Roesch** (SDSU Department of Psychology): Research interests include trait-state models of stress and coping; coping with physical illness; cultural, ethnic and acculturation differences in stress and coping.

**James Sallis** (SDSU Department of Psychology): His research interests are promoting physical activity and understanding policy and environmental influences on physical activity, nutrition, and obesity.

**Gregory Talavera** (SDSU Graduate School of Public Health and Co-Director of IBACH): His current research interests explore the culture-specific beliefs that serve as barriers to chronic disease prevention and control.

**For more information, please contact:**

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