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# ARIZONA HISPANIC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Arizona Hispanic Center of Excellence our Center's Principal Investigators, Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH and Ana Maria Lopez, MD, MPH, FACP and the entire team – Saludos!

We have just ended our second year of a three year funding period and are happy to offer you the newsletter for the AHCOE. It was a busy year for the AHCOE! Here are few of our accomplishments:

- Sponsored students in Med-Start; Summer Medical Education Program; Arizona Pre-medical Post Baccalaureate Program and medical student conference travel
- Supported professional development for 13 faculty by offering travel, research lab supplies / equipment and graduate research assistants
- Contributed to the promotion of two tenure eligible faculty

- Assisted in the creation of a AHCOE information resource position in the Arizona Health Sciences Library
- Established the GANAS (Greeting and Acclimating Newly Accepted Medical Students) program to assist students currently applying to the UA COM and support their matriculation after they are offered admission

The success noted above are achievements that students, faculty, UA COM partners and community members should be proud of. A HCOE is not at every medical school. An HCOE is awarded to a medical school through a competitive grant process. Therefore, we believe that the Arizona HCOE at the UA COM is unique and can enrich a medical school community with knowledge and resources.

As we enter our third year of

funding we are looking forward to building upon our successes and especially growing further to meet the demanding health and educational needs of our Hispanic community. We hope that the regular offering of this newsletter will serve to highlight successful programs, increase communication among our partners and expand awareness of resources. You can expect the newsletter three times a year (September, January and April).

Looking forward to a busy and productive year!

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Robles, MPH  
AHCOE  
Director



## NEW AHCOE WEBSITE LAUNCHED

On June 16, 2005 the AHCOE website was replaced with a new website that will provide in-depth information for students considering a career as a physician or health professional. Hispanic medical students and faculty can find resources and information on the latest funding opportunities, AHCOE support, faculty and student development, news and events, special medical programs, web links, and faculty-student net-

working and mentoring, plus much, much more.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding the website contact Lupe Obregón at (520) 626-9688 or [lupeo@email.arizona.edu](mailto:lupeo@email.arizona.edu).

Beginning **June 16, 2005** the NEW website [www.azhcoe.medicine.arizona.edu](http://www.azhcoe.medicine.arizona.edu)

## AHCOE LIBRARY

The Arizona Health Sciences Library has partnered with the Arizona Hispanic Center of Excellence (AHCOE) since the AHCOE's inception in 1999. Through the years AHSL has worked on developing innovative ways to deliver informatics services to further the AHCOE mission of improving research on Hispanic health in the Southwest and enhancing the College of Medicine's ability to recruit and retain Hispanic students and faculty.

As part of that collaboration, AHSL recently initiated a new web service

entitled "[Hispanic Health for the Hispanic Center of Excellence](#)," which provides targeted access to Hispanic health information located throughout the web. Designed for the needs of health care professionals, students and community users alike, it features daily news feeds about Hispanic health and related issues, highlighting new research, studies and programs.

The web site also provides links to consumer information, both in English and Spanish, as well as to resources on border health issues such as migrant, immigrant, seasonal and transitory worker health needs, providing culturally appropriate services, advocacy, etc.

In addition, the web site includes:

- A listing of other Centers of Excellence that focus on Hispanic, Multicultural, Diversity, Native American and Women's issues.
- One-stop shopping for commissioned reports, studies and research findings on Hispanic health policies and problems.
- Professional associations and resources for physicians, students, educators, public health workers and others interested in Hispanic health.
- Links to pharmaceutical and biotech companies that market and develop products for diseases or conditions prevalent in the Hispanic community-- includes some drug discount programs for low-income and uninsured workers.
- PubMed Alerts—stored search strategies that run automatically in the PubMed database and provide the most up-to-date information on various health indicators for Hispanics.
- Statistics on health indicators for Hispanics

For more information about the web site or about library services to AHCOE, contact:

Annabelle Nuñez  
AHCOE Services Librarian  
[anunez@ahsl.arizona.edu](mailto:anunez@ahsl.arizona.edu)  
(520) 626-7172

## AHCOE LIBRARIAN



Annabelle Nuñez joined AHSL in August 2004 as the Arizona Hispanic Center of Excellence (AHCOE) Services Librarian.

She is a native of Tucson and recently earned her MA in Library Science from the UA School of Information Resources and Library Science. Her new position gives

Annabelle a unique opportunity to continue her work with and for the Hispanic community. She will draw on her experience as a community advocate and project manager to further AHSL's goals in expanding information services on and about Hispanic health. She looks forward to serving not only university affiliates, but the community at large. Annabelle enjoys the arts and has performed with Borderlands, a local theater company.

## WHO'S WHO AT THE ARIZONA HISPANIC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

A great team has been assembled to further the goals and vision of the AHCOE; which are to support Hispanic faculty and student recruitment, retention and development; infuse cultural competence into medical school curriculum and advance the research of Hispanic investigators and contribute to the understanding of Hispanic health issues.

**Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH**, AHCOE Principal Investigator (Tucson), Director of the Division of Gynecology at the UA COM, and Deputy Director of Arizona Women's Center of Excellence

### **Ana María Lopez, MD, MPH, FACP**

AHCOE Co-Principal Investigator, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pathology Medical Director, Women's Health Initiative & Arizona Telemedicine (Tucson)

**Jonathan Robles, MPH**, AHCOE Director (Phoenix) and Director of the Office of Minority Affairs - Phoenix

**Jennie Brown**, Program Coordinator, responsible for medical student / faculty research and faculty development. (Tucson)

**Lizette Acosta**, Program Coordinator, responsible for student outreach, support activities and the GANAS program; Greeting and Acclimating Newly Accepted Students. (Phoenix)

**Lupe Obregón**, Administrative Assistant, responsible for gathering research opportunities and disseminating information to students and faculty. She also maintains the new AHCOE website. (Tucson)

## AMONG TOP TEN MEDICAL SCHOOLS FOR HISPANICS

The **University of Arizona College of Medicine** has been named among the top 10 medical schools for Hispanics by *Hispanic Business Magazine*. In its September issue, the publication ranked the UA College of Medicine seventh in the nation for Hispanic students.

Methodology for ranking included the number and percentage of Hispanic students; the number and type of programs and services geared toward recruiting and mentoring Hispanic students; the student retention rate; and the school's standing in *U.S. News and World Report* rankings. This year, the magazine also interviewed students and recent graduates.

For many years, the UA College of Medicine has offered a variety of academic, professional and social support services for Hispanic medical students.

The College of Medicine successfully recruits Hispanic students by working with many partners beginning early in the academic "pipeline." As the students progress through high school, summer program opportunities such as Med-Start, Maricopa Med-Start and the Latina Institute provide academic enrichment and health career exploration. The UA College of Medicine reaches more than 5,000 students each year to encourage involvement in the health professions and to provide opportunities for these students.

The UA College of Medicine, recently ranked among the nation's top 60 medical schools by *U.S. News and World Report*, has seen its total annual research funding grow from \$345,000 in 1967 to \$125 million in 2004. Today, the College of Medicine has five basic science departments and 14 clinical science departments.

The College of Medicine currently has 422 medical students; 99 percent of these students graduate. The College also has 156 graduate students and 853 undergraduates (majoring in physiology). The Tucson-based College has 522 full-time, salaried faculty members.

## UA PHYSICIANS ANA MARÍA LOPEZ & LESLIE BOYER SELECTED AS 'LOCAL LEGENDS'

**Ana María Lopez, MD, MPH, FACP**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pathology, Medical Director of Arizona Telemedicine Program, Medical Director of Women's Health Initiative, was nominated for the award by Raul Grijalva, Democrat - Arizona.

The *Local Legends* recognition is a companion project to an exhibition created by the National Library of Medicine titled, *Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians*. The award is given through

the [American Medical Women's Association](#) (AMWA) to women physicians who have demonstrated commitment, originality, innovation and creativity in the field of medicine.

As *Local Legends*, Dr. Leslie Boyer and Dr. Lopez will become part of the permanent exhibition of the U.S. National Library of Medicine: *Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians*.

*Changing the Face of Medicine: Local Legends* is an annual program that honors contemporary women physicians for their outstanding contributions to medicine. The nomination process included an expert review panel that referred candidate names to their members of Congress for selection and inclusion in the exhibition.

*Changing the Face of Medicine* exhibition is currently traveling to hundreds of medical schools and public libraries throughout the United States.

## AHCOE FACULTY / STUDENT MIXERS

The AHCOE Faculty / Student Mixer on April, 11, 2005 gave everyone the chance to take a break, medical students, faculty and staff enjoyed free appetizers, billiards and even air hockey at Maloney's on 4th Avenue.

The AHCOE Faculty / Student Mixer offers students the opportunity to mingle with other medical students, network with AHCOE faculty, staff, and AHCOE partners.

In October, medical students, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to network again. The AHCOE Faculty / Student Mixer is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 11, 2005** at Maloney's on 4th Avenue from **5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Medical students who attend will receive an AHCOE care package with all the essentials.

If you would like to attend please RSVP to Lupe Obregón at (520) 626-9688 or [lupe@email.arizona.edu](mailto:lupe@email.arizona.edu).



AHCOE staff enjoy shooting some pool at Maloney's at the mixer in April.

## Upcoming Events

- Diversity Networking Expo hosted by the UA Hispanic Alumni and UA Diversity Resource Office Thursday, October 6, 2005 from 5:30 p.m. –7:00 p.m. RSVP to (520) 626-9327 or [lujano@al.arizona.edu](mailto:lujano@al.arizona.edu)
- “Noche de Ronda” Breast cancer research fundraiser hosted by Phi Beta Psi (Sigma Nu Chapter) Saturday, October 8, 2005 For information or to RSVP call (520) 722-9754 or (520) 762-1919
- AHCOE Student / Faculty Mixer Tuesday, October 11, 2005 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Maloney’s in Tucson
- HACU’s 19th Annual Conference “Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders” - October 15 -18, 2005 - Phoenix
- Association of American Medical Colleges Annual Meeting in Washington, DC on November 4 - 9, 2005 [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)
- AHCOE Roundtable on December 7, 2005 ~ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Come meet María Altbach, PhD, Research Associate Professor, the featured AHCOE faculty member. RSVP / Lupe Obregón [lupeo@email.arizona.edu](mailto:lupeo@email.arizona.edu)
- AHCOE Library Workshop For information contact Annabelle Nuñez, AHCOE Services Librarian [anunez@ahsl.arizona.edu](mailto:anunez@ahsl.arizona.edu) (520) 626-7172

## BECOME A MENTOR.

Here at the Arizona Hispanic Center of Excellence we would like to support our incoming medical students as much as possible. This year there are ten first year Hispanic medical students who could benefit from your knowledge.

We are asking Hispanic faculty and physicians to be part of this learning experience and help support the students in the next academic and professional phase of their life.

You can choose to participate in two ways:

- contacted as needed by newly accepted medical students
- participate in a mentoring experience

Overall by being available to be contacted you provide the medical students:

- answers to their questions regarding their medical career
- a potential mentoring opportunity in clinical and or research area
- support in their first year
- information about the Arizona HCOE and its educational opportunities
- knowledge about the UA COM and its resources

We hope that by being able to connect our new medical students with faculty and physicians, they will feel the support and guidance necessary to make their first year a

successful year!

If you are interested in being contacted by our new medical students and or participating in a mentoring experience you can download the application at the AHCOE website or contact

Lizette Acosta at (602) 631-6572 or [lizette@email.arizona.edu](mailto:lizette@email.arizona.edu)



## NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL CAMPUS COMING TO PHOENIX!



The University of Arizona College of Medicine will be opening a new campus in downtown Phoenix in July 2006. The campus will be located on a 15.7 acre parcel provided by the City of Phoenix.

Funding for the new campus was appropriated by the Arizona Legislature in May 2005. SB1517 allocated \$7 million to bring a full four-

year program of the College of Medicine to Phoenix.

Currently, third- and fourth-year medical students are able to complete coursework at the Phoenix campus located at Third Street and Indian School Road. This expansion will allow students to attend all four years of medical school at the Phoenix location. The first four-year class is scheduled to begin in July 2007.

The College of Medicine will be housed in the historic Phoenix Union High School buildings located at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Van Buren. Renovation of the buildings is well underway;

the former window openings have been restored and the interior walls of the buildings have been removed.

The Smith Group, the architects retained for the renovation, has completed the final plans for the interior of the buildings with a design that will accommodate students, faculty and staff for the planned July 2006 move.

For more information on the new medical school contact Susan Guthrie, Senior Public Affairs Coordinator at (602) 631-6555 or [sguthrie@email.arizona.edu](mailto:sguthrie@email.arizona.edu).