



Redes En Acción

Cancer Awareness • Research • Training
www.redesenaccion.org

REPORT ON THE 1ST ANNUAL
REDES EN ACCIÓN
NATIONAL STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 23-25, 2000
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS





A Report on **The 1st Annual**
Redes En Acción National Steering Committee Meeting
 August 23-25, 2000 • San Antonio, Texas

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Redes En Acción
wishes to thank the Susan G. Komen
Breast Cancer Foundation,
a major sponsor of the 1st Annual
National Steering Committee Meeting.



AGENDA 2000

Wednesday, August 23

2:30-5:30 Executive Committee Meeting

6:00-7:00 Registration

6:30-7:00 Reception

7:00-10:00 Dinner

- ▶ 7:00-7:10 Welcome from Drs. Amelie Ramirez and Armin Weinberg
- ▶ 7:45-8:00 Personal introductions by all members
- ▶ 8:00-8:30 Overview of *Redes En Acción* and Preview of Day 2 activities (Dr. Ramirez)

Thursday, August 24

8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30-8:35 Welcome and Overview of Day 2 activities (Dr. Ramirez)

8:35-9:00 Remarks by U.S. Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, Honorary Chair of the National Steering Committee

9:00-9:30 Break

9:30-Noon Breakout for discussion and prioritization of topics (4 work groups – assignments made at time of registration)

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-5:00 Breakout for discussion and prioritization of topics (4 work groups – assignments made at time of registration)

Friday, August 25

8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30-10:00 Overview of Day 3 Activities

Finalize the prioritization process (all groups combined)

10:00-10:30 Year 1 Surveys (Physician and Key Informant Surveys)

10:30-11:30 Future actions

- ▶ Next NSC meeting times and subjects
- ▶ Phases 2 and 3 overview

11:30-Noon Closing Remarks



Redes En Acción: Cancer Awareness, Research and Training
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A letter from

Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez

Principal Investigator, *Redes En Acción*



Dear Colleagues,

As we approached the 1st Annual *Redes En Acción* National Steering Committee Meeting, the task before us was to develop a guiding vision and specific goals for our unique partnership.

Our National Steering Committee contributed significant time and effort in the review of priority issues that will serve as a foundation for *Redes En Acción* funding and research objectives. This report describes our efforts so far and what we expect to accomplish in the future.

Many excellent ideas were advanced during our inaugural National Steering Committee meeting in August 2000. Subsequent to the meeting, our task has been to share those ideas with our partners in the six regions served by *Redes En Acción*, and complete a nationwide survey of stakeholders in Latino cancer issues. We plan to share the results of the survey during the 2nd Annual National Steering Committee meeting August 15-17, 2001, and to chart new tasks based on these priorities.

Other activities include disseminating national television and radio public service announcements to increase Latino participation in cancer clinical trials and launching our new *Redes En Acción* web site. We are also issuing requests for pilot proposals that enable early-career Latino researchers to engage in cancer research and training.

By the end of 2001, I fully expect our efforts to bear the fruits of past and present efforts. Through our partnerships and mutual goals of improving cancer research, cancer research training and cancer awareness, I believe we can have a significant impact on the health status of Latinos in the United States.

Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH
Principal Investigator,
Redes En Acción



YEAR 1: Infrastructure Building

Funded through a five-year grant from the National Cancer Institute, *Redes En Acción* is a national network focusing the energies of its numerous partners who share a stake in the health of Latinos and their increased participation in cancer research, training and public awareness of cancer control.

The first year of activities involved the establishment of a national infrastructure with headquarters at Baylor College of Medicine in San Antonio and Houston, Texas. Six regional centers with advisory committees representing their communities were also established. The regional offices have been developed in cities with large Latino populations. In addition to the San Antonio and Houston headquarters, these regional centers include San Diego, San Francisco, San Antonio, Chicago, New York and Miami. *Redes En Acción* also has an affiliation with the National Hispanic Medical Association, in Washington, D.C., to provide input and perspective on national issues and federal programs that affect Latino health care. Each regional center is located in either a university or a comprehensive cancer center.

Redes En Acción is the logical extension of another major initiative in the fight against cancer among Latinos, the National Hispanic Leadership Initiative on Cancer: *En Acción*, directed by Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez from 1992 to 2000.

Redes En Acción is proceeding in three phases:

- ▶ **Phase 1:** (Year 1) Network development, prioritization of research areas and initiation of a broad-based cancer awareness campaign
- ▶ **Phase 2:** (Years 2-5) Development of pilot projects and continuation of awareness campaign
- ▶ **Phase 3:** (Year 5) Development of independent research grants (e.g., apply for competitive NIH funding)

In 2001, *Redes En Acción* has launched Phase 2 in its mission to train more Latino researchers, fund cancer research projects addressing concerns related to the Latino community, and create a network of health professionals and health consumers interested in issues involving Latinos and cancer.

This report provides a brief summary of the initial meeting of the *Redes En Acción* National Steering Committee, conducted in August 2000 in San Antonio.

Meeting Overview

The 2000 meeting afforded the first opportunity to meet face-to-face with a broad range of researchers, academicians, community leaders, health care professionals, government representatives, corporate members and others. Organizations represented in the National Steering Committee include:

- ▶ National Cancer Institute
- ▶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- ▶ National Association of Community Health Centers
- ▶ Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation (which funded the inaugural conference with SmithKlineBeecham)
- ▶ University of Illinois at Chicago
- ▶ American Cancer Society
- ▶ Hispanic Nurses Association



(l to r) Dr. Amelie Ramirez, U.S. Congressman Ciro Rodriguez and Dr. George Alexander, NCI.

For two days, members of the *Redes En Acción* National Steering Committee methodically reviewed a multitude of issues impacting the health of Latinos. The result of this process was a preliminary list of cancer research issues that was sent to each of the six *Redes En Acción* Regional Network Centers: in San Antonio, TX, San Francisco and San Diego, CA, Miami, FL, Brooklyn, NY and Chicago, IL. Over the next six months, each regional center conducted meetings with members of their local Regional Center Advisory Committees, which in turn performed a similar process of analysis and review using the same subject areas for discussion.

With input from the National Steering Committee and the regional *Redes En Acción* Advisory Committees, the issues were crafted into a survey that went to more than 600 stakeholders nationwide (from each of the six *Redes En Acción* regions) in



YEAR 1: Setting Priorities

Latino cancer issues. After subsequent review and discussion at the 2001 National Steering Committee meeting, the end result will be a formal report. The prioritized topics in this report will become the working directives for research, training and awareness activities of the *Redes En Acción* program.

Conference Proceedings

At the first night's dinner, members were greeted by the program's Principal Investigator, Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez, Deputy Director of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center (CDPCRC) of the Baylor College of Medicine, and by Dr. Armin D. Weinberg, CDPCRC Director. As delegates met the following morning, U.S. Rep. **Ciro Rodriguez**, D-San



U.S. Congressman Ciro Rodriguez

Antonio, the Honorary Chair of the National Steering Committee, reminded delegates of the importance of their mission. He spoke of the legacy of disregard for the health needs of some Latinos, especially in economically depressed areas. As a member of the House Hispanic Caucus, Rep. Rodriguez is seeking to create a Committee on Public Health. The Congressman said it was vital that organizations such as *Redes En Acción* develop as

powerful partners to academic, political and business organizations.

Setting Priorities

National Steering Committee delegates were given background papers on a dozen topics selected for their consideration. These were to be examined with four major goals: 1) developing programs and pilot projects in cancer research targeting Latinos; 2) training health professionals and opening doors into medical fields for Latino students through grants and scholarships; 3) promoting mentorships; and 4) promoting cancer awareness among the Latino population. Delegates divided into working groups, with each group addressing variations on central topics. These included:

- ▶ Access to care
- ▶ Occupational risks
- ▶ Smoking
- ▶ Alcohol consumption
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Weight management
- ▶ Primary prevention
- ▶ Breast cancer



- ▶ Clinical trials
- ▶ Genetic testing
- ▶ Cancer survivorship
- ▶ Quality of life
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Doctor-patient communication
- ▶ Recruitment

The Debate

Within their groups, delegates were instructed to make recommendations for each topic in three areas: research, training and awareness. By the end of day 1 of the meeting, the recommendations were assigned a priority status by individuals in the discussion groups. The final day of the conference brought delegates together in a lively discussion of the previous day's results. As a single group, the steering committee reviewed the topics and raised new issues to add to or insert into existing topics. Much of the discussion focused on access to care, tobacco use, risk communication, occupational and environmental exposure, infectious agents and health advocacy





YEAR 1: Setting Priorities

The Results

A number of issues were distilled from the discussions, producing a more comprehensive list of topics to present to

the *Redes* regional partners and in the subsequent key observer surveys. These topics are listed below.

Specific Cancers

- ▶ Brain and Nervous System
- ▶ Bladder Cancer
- ▶ Breast Cancer
- ▶ Cervical Cancer
- ▶ Colorectal Cancer
- ▶ Endometrial Cancer
- ▶ Esophageal Cancer
- ▶ Kidney Cancer
- ▶ Leukemia & Multiple Myeloma
- ▶ Liver Cancer
- ▶ Lung Cancer
- ▶ Lymphomas (Hodgkin's & Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma)
- ▶ Melanoma and Skin Cancers
- ▶ Nasopharyngeal Cancer
- ▶ Oral Cancer
- ▶ Ovarian Cancer
- ▶ Pancreatic Cancer
- ▶ Prostate Cancer
- ▶ Stomach Cancer
- ▶ Testicular Cancer
- ▶ Thyroid Cancer
- ▶ Other Cancers _____

Cancer Influences and Issues

- ▶ Tobacco
- ▶ Nutrition
- ▶ Infectious Agents
- ▶ Occupation and Environment
- ▶ Alcohol
- ▶ Exercise/Weight Management
- ▶ Sexual Practices
- ▶ Access to Cancer Screening and Care
- ▶ Doctor/Patient Communication
- ▶ Risk Communication
- ▶ Clinical Trial Participation
- ▶ Genetic Testing and Education
- ▶ Cancer Survivorship
- ▶ Quality of Life



YEAR 1: Moving Forward

The Media

Media coverage of the conference was extensive. All six of San Antonio's network affiliate television stations sent news crews and ran stories about the conference, including the Spanish-language Univision and Telemundo affiliates. The San Antonio Express-News, which circulates throughout South

Texas, also ran a lengthy "spot news" report. Most of these stories focused on the unique mission of *Redes En Acción* – to create a "first of its kind" network of information and resources with regard to Latinos and cancer.



The Next Steps

As we transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2, we are sharing our efforts with a broad array of stakeholders in Latino cancer issues. Our key observer survey results will be presented at the 2nd Annual National Steering Committee Meeting. Also, at this meeting we will review pilot project concept papers submitted by investigators in the various regions. Finally, we will unveil

our national TV and radio PSA campaign to encourage Latino participation in cancer clinical trials. Our progress is documented in our regular quarterly newsletter on an ongoing basis, and the *Redes En Acción* web site is online and serving as a source of information about the program.



More information on the plans and activities of *Redes En Acción* can be found at www.redesenaccion.org.



***Redes En Acción* National Steering Committee**

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