



United States-México Border Health Commission

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THE UNITED STATES-MÉXICO BORDER PREPARES: A BINATIONAL PANDEMIC INFLUENZA FORUM

The United States-México Border Health Commission (BHC) hosted the first-ever binational pandemic influenza forum, *The United States - México Border Prepares: A Binational Pandemic Influenza Forum*, in conjunction with its

14th Meeting held in Hermosillo, Sonora, México, on November 13-14, 2006. The Commission brought together subject experts and others from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the México Secretariat of Health, the U.S. Homeland Security Department and leaders or their representatives from the ten Border States to promote coordinated actions related to binational pandemic influenza planning.

Participants included: **Dr. Raymundo López Vucovich**, Secretary of Health for the State of Sonora, **Dr. Pablo Kuri**, General Director of Epidemiology, México Ministry of Health, **RADM Craig Vanderwagen**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Emergency Preparedness, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), **Dr. William Steiger**, Special Assistant to the Secretary for International Affairs, HHS, **Lou Valdez**, Delegate for the Secretary of HHS, **Mr. Michael Garcia**, Regional Director, HHS Region VI, Dallas, and **Dr. Kevin O'Reilly**, Director for Latin American Affairs, U.S. Department of



Mauricio Bailón González, Mary Lou Valdez, William Steiger, and Héctor Martínez at the BHC Meeting in Hermosillo, Sonora.

Homeland Security. Also presenting at the forum was **Ms. Sandra Shewry**, Director of the California Department of Health Services, who presented on the *California-Baja California Regional Pandemic Influenza Response Plan – the Tri-Sector Pan Flu Model*.

One key outcome of the forum was the signing of the *Joint Declaration to encourage Cooperation in the Field of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Secretariat of Health of Mexico*. Signatories from the ten U.S. and Mexico Border States witnessed the signing of the joint declaration. A copy of the Joint Declaration can be found at www.borderhealth.org, under Border Health Reports.



Dr. Raymundo López Vucovich, RADM Craig Vanderwagen, and Dr. Pablo Kuri celebrate the event.



The United States-México Border Health Commission welcomes Dr. José Ángel Cordova Villalobos as Secretary of Health of México and Commissioner of the México Section, and wishes him the best during his tenure.

Welcome!



Dr. José Ángel Córdoba Villalobos, Secretary of Health of México.

Dr. José Ángel Córdoba Villalobos is a native of León, Guanajuato. He received his Medical degree from the School of Medicine of León of the University of Guanajuato and completed a specialty residency in Internal Medicine at the National Institute of Medical Science and Nutrition “Salvador Zubirán”.

Other training and education has included specialty training in General Surgery and Digestive Endoscopy at the Paul Sebatier University of Toulouse, France where he was named the *Honoris Causa* physician and earning a Master in Public Administration degree from the University of Guanajuato, with a specialty in state and municipal public administration.

Dr. Córdoba’s experience has included serving as the Director of the School of Medicine of the University of Guanajuato from 1990 to 1997; Head of General Surgery at the Regional Hospital of León from 1983 to 1987; Assistant Medical Director of the IMSS Specialty Hospital in León from 1985 to 1990; President of the Mexican Association of Digestive Endoscopy from 1995 to 1996; and, Secretary of Relations of the Mexican Association of Gastroenterology in 1993.

He has authored 106 and co-authored 23 scientific papers. He has presented at national and international forums and published 72 articles or summaries in national and international medical journals. Dr. Córdoba has additionally authored seventeen chapters in medical textbooks and has published two medical textbooks on “Endoscopic Procedures in Gastroenterology” and “General Surgery for Medical Students.”

Dr. Córdoba’s academic and service achievements have included the top academic award, the “*Robins*” Award from the School of Medicine of Guanajuato in 1973, 1974 and 1975 and the *Best Medical Student in Mexico* award in 1976. He has been the recipient of the *National Research Award* from the Mexican Association of Gastroenterology; the *Health Research Award* from the state of Guanajuato; the *Afacinera and Order of Merit “Francisco Hernández” Award* in Medical Education in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1997, and the “*Robinson Bours*” *FUNSAUD* Award in Medical Education in 1997.

He has served as the Citizen Adviser and President of the General Council of the Guanajuato Electoral Institute, as a Federal Congressman for the *Partido Acción Nacional* (National Action Party) and was President of the Health Commission of the LIX Legislature from October 1, 2003 to August 31, 2006.

BORDER BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

“Families In Action for Health”

THANK YOU BORDER BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK PARTNERS



U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services

Secretaría de Salud de México

Health Resources and
Services Administration

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

Office of Minority Health

Commission Outreach Offices

U.S. Offices of Border Health

Arizona Department
of Health Services

Servicios de Salud Pública
del Estado de Sonora

California Department
of Health Services

Instituto de Servicios de
Salud Pública del Estado
de Baja California

New Mexico Department
of Health

Texas Department of
State Health Services

Pan American
Health Organization

United States-Mexico
Border Health Association



Dr. Rosemarie Johnson, U.S. Section - California member, at the BBHW Inaugural Event in Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua.

The celebration of Border Binational Health Week (BBHW) took place October 9-13, 2006. The goal of Border Binational Health Week was especially focused on the promotion of sustainable partnerships to address border health problems. Intended outcomes included increased community and inter-agency networking relationships, increased information sharing and educational opportunities, and increased awareness of BHC and other state and local initiatives. The event offered participants opportunities for networking, relationship building, educational opportunities, and increased awareness of state, local and binational activities.

Residents from binational Mexican municipalities and U.S. border counties were actively involved in the celebration of BBHW. Activities included forums on border health research, border public health promotion policies and tobacco policies, technical workshops on health information systems, disease-specific issues, and a variety of cross-border health related activities and events sponsored by public health and health care agencies. Federal, state, and local health authorities, academia, elected officials, border health stakeholders and

various community members were present and participated throughout the week-long event.

More specifically, the BHC hosted a binational forum on border health research in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico as a first step in the development of a comprehensive border health research agenda. **Dr. Jose Manuel de la Rosa**, U.S. Section - Texas and **Dra. Dora Elia Cortez**, Mexico Section – Nuevo Leon, co-chairs of the Border Health Research Work Group, led the planning and conduct of the forum for the Commission.

Members participating in El Paso – Ciudad Juarez binational events included **Dr. Rosemarie Marshall Johnson**, U.S. Section – California, **Dr. Lawrence Kline**, U.S. Section- California, **Dr. Tom G. Lindsey**, U.S. Section – New Mexico, **Dr. Bruce D. San Filippo**, U.S. Section – New Mexico, and **Sam Howarth**, Delegate for Secretary Michelle Lujan Grisham, U.S. Section – New Mexico.

For more information about BBHW please visit our web site at – www.borderhealth.org



Dr. Tom Lindsey, U.S. Section - New Mexico member, at the inauguration of the BBHW 2006.

COMMISSION OUTREACH OFFICES MEET

The first *Triannual Meeting of the Border Health Commission Outreach Offices* was held in El Paso, Texas on December 11-12, 2006. The purpose of the meeting was intended to promote improved coordination and communication among the ten Commission Outreach Offices (ORO) and other key border stakeholders that included Dr. Maria Teresa Cerqueira, Chief of the El Paso Border Office for the Pan American Health Organization, Dr. Manuel Robles Linares, Executive Director of the U.S. – Mexico Border Health Association, and Mr. Eddie Olivares, First Vice-President of the U.S. – Mexico Border Health Association, among others, including representatives of academic institutions from the ten border states.

Dr. Bruce D. San Filippo, U.S. Section – New Mexico member, and **Dr. Jaime León Varela**, Mexico Section - Sonora member, provided highlights of the Commission's 14th Binational Meeting and Binational Pandemic Influenza Forum held in Hermosillo, Sonora, México in November 2006.

The work of the OROs focused on the recently approved strategic directions for 2007 that includes access to care, research and data collection, and health promotion. A significant outcome of this meeting was the presentation of the long-awaited mid-course review of the Healthy Border 2010 indicators provided by Dr. Sam Notzon from the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC. A formal report on the mid-course review will be released in 2007.

BORDER HEALTH COMMISSION RECOGNIZES JOSÉ ANTONIO ARIAS

The U.S. – México Border Health Commission recognized **Jose Antonio Arias Sierra**, México Section staff member, for his forty plus years of public service during the Commission's 14th Annual Meeting in Hermosillo, Sonora, México in November 2006.

Lou Valdez, U.S. Section Secretary's Delegate, and **Mauricio Bailón**, México Section Secretary's representative, presented the recognition plaque to Jose Antonio expressing the Commission's appreciation for his many contributions, expertise, and commitment.



Mauricio Bailón and Mary Lou Valdez presenting Mr. Arias with the recognition.

Consul Arias, as his friends and colleagues best know him, began his career in 1964 with the Mexican Foreign Service where he was appointed as Vice Consul for the Mexican Consulate. He has served as the Mexican Delegate for Foreign Affairs in various locations including: Salt

Lake City, UT, Denver, CO, Kansas City, MO, Chicago, IL, New York, NY, Los Angeles, CA, and Presidio, TX.

Consul Arias, most recently based at the BHC offices in El Paso, Texas has relocated to the Mexico Section offices in Mexico City, México.

The mission of the United States-México Border Health Commission is to provide international leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the United States-México border.

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ACTION

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM ON HEALTH AND MIGRATION



Dr. Cecilia Rosales, U.S. Section - Arizona member, and **Dr. Alfonso Valenzuela**, México Section - Baja California member, participated in the *Sixth Binational Public Policy*

Forum on Health and Migration in Guadalajara, Jalisco, México, on October 9-10, 2006 as part of the inaugural ceremony for the 2006 United States – México Binational Health Week.

The objective of the forum was to promote and strengthen binational collaboration, communication

and association among community organizations, government agencies, and universities and to develop action plans to benefit the health needs of Mexican migrants living in the United States. Topics of discussion included globalization, migration reform, health of the migrant, and cost of migrant health.

The forum included representatives from institutions and agencies from the U.S.-México Border including, the México Secretariat of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Pan American Health Organization, Universities from the U.S. and México, and representatives of the ten U.S.-México Border States.

“DIA DE LOS CAMPESINOS”

Campesinos Sin Fronteras, located in Somerton, Arizona held its *12th Annual Día de Los Campesinos* community health fair in San Luis, Arizona, on December 2, 2006. The fair’s principal purpose is to serve the thousands of farm workers who start their work day, before dawn, in the region of San Luis, Arizona. The event, which has grown over the years, provides vital health screenings, including glucose tests and influenza shots, direct health education and general health information for the farm worker population.

Emma Torres, U.S. Section – Arizona member and Executive Director of Campesinos Sin Fronteras, the sponsoring organization, and her sister Flor Redondo, who serves as the fair’s Project Coordinator, know exactly how to pinpoint the key time and location to capture the attention of the community that *Campesinos* aims to serve. With the unrelenting support and organization from the staff at *Campesinos*, the event was able to draw in the large farm worker community that is often illusive.

In addition, students and faculty from the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health set up camp at 3 a.m. to conduct opportunistic surveys of the farm worker community.

The survey will be used to identify the range of risk conditions unique to the farm worker community working in the border region.

The success of this year’s *Dia de Los Campesinos* is also credited to the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Border Health Commission’s Arizona Outreach Office, and a participating team of Peace Corps Fellows. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services provided support to *Campesinos* for this event.

For information on *Campesinos Sin Fronteras*, please contact Emma Torres at ecarnil@aol.com.



Community health practitioner in the field gathering data.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF BORDER HEALTH



Paul Dulin, M.A., of Hatch, New Mexico, was appointed as the director of the New Mexico Office of Border Health in October 2006. The Office of Border Health located in Las Cruces, New Mexico, reports directly to the Director of the Public Health Division.

Paul has more than thirty years of professional experience, spanning twenty-eight countries, including the U.S.-México Border Region and all of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a few professional side trips to Somalia and Bangladesh. Paul has worked extensively in the design, management and evaluation of numerous social and environmental impact mitigation and management programs that have included elements of environmental and public health, occupational safety and health, and infectious disease surveillance and prevention.

Paul is actively working to implement a strategic planning process for the Office of Border Health

(OBH) in order to improve linkages with the Department's own Fiscal Year 2008 Strategic Plan, as well as Healthy Border 2010 focus areas. As part of this effort, the

Department has determined the need to integrate the resources and management of the New Mexico Outreach Office (NM-ORO) with the Office of Border Health (OBH). Those activities had previously been managed under a Memorandum of Agreement with New Mexico State University's Border Epidemiology and Environmental Health Center.

Before joining the New Mexico Department of Health, Paul worked as a personal services contractor for the Department during the last few years in the areas of environmental health and epidemiological surveillance. He is fluent in Spanish, and resides with his wife, Cheri, and his sons, Zachary and Zane.

Source: Chris Minnick, Regional Public Health Information Officer, New Mexico Department of Health, Las Cruces, NM



Border Binational Health Week 2007

Planning for the 5th Annual Border Binational Health Week is upon us!

October 2007 (Dates TBD)

For additional information contact:

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www.borderhealth.org

BORDER HEROES



U.S. Border Hero

Mary Stites is a true community advocate and Border Hero in every sense of the word. She has provided health education, advocacy and support in the areas of breast and cervical cancer, diabetes prevention and management, maternal and child health, domestic violence, and sexually

transmitted diseases throughout the Arizona border region.

Mary began her advocacy work as a volunteer from 1985-1988 with the Pima County Health Department with the Give a Parent Support (GAPS) program teaching parenting skills and child abuse prevention. She was a facilitator for the Hispanic Widowhood Project. Together with Evelyn Gonzalez, she started a support group for Hispanic women with breast and cervical cancer, responding to the need for a culturally

relevant support group for Hispanic women in the community; something that had not previously existed.

While her contributions to the community have been long standing, her true talent and passion comes out on an individual basis. In a recent diabetes education class she was conducting, a woman was visibly upset because of her recent diabetes diagnosis. Mary provided hope, laughter, and information on how to lead a healthy life in a way that only Mary could. Mary's grace, good humor and caring have made a lasting impact on her patients and their families. Mary retired from the College of Public Health in January 2007.

The U.S. – México Border Health Commission thereby recognizes Mary Stites as a 2007 Border hero.

Nomination made by: Martha Monroy, Program Coordinator Sr., Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.



México Border Hero

Remedios Lozada, ME, has been selected as a Border Hero for her dedication and professionalism in her service in support of people who suffer from HIV/AIDS. She has previously received recognition for her work with cross-border communities.

Remedios initiated her career in 1984 in the Health Jurisdiction II in Tijuana, B.C. as an Epidemiologist, where she was responsible for leading the surveillance efforts for the first AIDS case in Tijuana, Baja California. She also directed the Jurisdiction's HIV/AIDS Program since 1991 and has been instrumental in the implementation of the regulations affecting blood and its derivatives and in the mandatory HIV testing in state controlled blood banks.

She was an important part of the establishment of the *Centro Municipal para la Prevención del VIH/SIDA-COMUSIDA* (Municipal Center for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS) and was a leader in the work group that negotiated the donation of land that later became Casa Hogar "Las Memorias" that serves as a shelter for persons with AIDS.

Remedios is presently collaborating on a binational project called "El Cohete" that will help recognize prevalence and risk behaviors associated with HIV/STDs in drug users.

The U.S. – México Border Health Commission thereby recognizes Remedios Lozada as a 2007 Border hero.

Nomination made by: Dr. Alfonso Valenzuela, Mexico Section – Baja California.

Nominate deserving individuals for Border Hero or send any questions or comments to bhc@borderhealth.org

U.S.-MÉXICO BORDER HEALTH COMMISSION - MEMBER PROFILES



Dr. Bruce D. San Filippo has served as Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at Memorial Medical Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico since 2000. Dr. San Filippo has also served, since coming to Memorial Medical Center in 1992, as

Chief of Staff, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer. He recently retired from a private medical practice in neurological surgery having practiced in Las Cruces since 1982.

Dr. San Filippo received his medical degree from Albany Medical College in Albany, NY and completed his neurological surgery residency at Albany Medical College and the University of Iowa, Iowa City in 1979.

He is a member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, American Medical Association, New Mexico Medical Society, and the American College of Physician Executives. In support of the New Mexico Outreach Office Dr. San Filippo serves as an ex-officio member of the New Mexico Border Health Council. Dr. San Filippo also serves as the U.S. Section co-chair of the Commission's Budget Committee and is a member of the Communication and Outreach Work Group.

Dr. José Raymundo López Vucóvich has served as the Secretary of Public Health of the State of Sonora since September 2003.

Dr. López Vucovich received his medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine at the *Universidad*

Autónoma de Guadalajara (Autonomous University of Guadalajara) in 1976. He completed his undergraduate internship at the *Hospital General del Estado de Sonora* (General Hospital of the State of Sonora), and his post-graduate specialty internship in Pediatrics at the *Hospital del Niño del Noroeste-DIF-UNAM* (DIF-UNAM Northeast Children's Hospital).

He has practiced at the *Clínica Hospital CIMA* (Hospital-Clinic) of Hermosillo since 2002.

His professional background includes: President of the Administration Board of the Northeast Medical Center from 1990 to 1993; founder and member of the Hospital CIMA in Hermosillo; and President of the *Sociedad Médica Sonorense-CIMA* (CIMA Medical Society of Sonora) from 1998 to 2000. Dr. López Vucovich is also an active member of various medical societies.



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(Please check our website at www.borderhealth.org or www.saludfronteriza.org for updated event information)

May 20-23

USMBHA 65th Annual Meeting: "Two Nations, One Cause: Partners in Health"
Location: South Padre Island, Texas
Info: Oscar Vazquez, (915) 833-6450 ext. 15, vazquezo@usmbha.org or at www.usmbha.org

June 7

US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce 11th Annual US-MX Congressional Border Issues Conference
Location: Washington, DC
Info: (202) 312-1526 or at www.usmccoc.org

June 28-30

National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) 24th Annual Conference
Location: Orlando, FL
Info and registration: <http://www.naleo.org/annualconference.html>

August 13-14

United States-Mexico Border Center of Excellence Consortium Forum
Location: Tucson, AZ
Info: Martha Medrano, (210) 567-0963 or at MEDRANOM@uthscsa.edu