



# NIH NEWS ADVISORY

National Institutes of Health

National Human Genome Research Institute

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## **Engaging Latino Communities In Genomic Science and Issues**

*Meeting to Address Latino Access to Genomic Benefits*

**BETHESDA, Md.**, Thurs., Jan., 29, 2004 – The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health’s Office of Rare Diseases, Baylor College of Medicine’s Redes En Accion (Networks in Action), the National Hispanic Medical Association and the National Council of LaRaza, will gather leaders from the Latino community on Tues., Feb. 3, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ET, to begin a dialogue about the opportunities and the complex challenges that genetic and genomic science may soon present. The meeting, entitled “Engaging Latino Communities in the Future of Genomic Science,” will be held at the Lawton Chiles International House on the NIH campus.

“The Human Genome Project will only be considered a success if its discoveries and applications benefit all population groups,” said NHGRI Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. “This meeting is a milestone that gives all of us involved the opportunity to identify issues in genetics and genomics that are important to Latino communities and to develop partnerships to ensure that all Latinos have access to health benefits resulting from genetic and genomic research.”

Latinos are the largest minority group in the United States and suffer from a greater incidence of many diseases, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and breast and cervical cancers. Genetic and genomic research promise to help address a wide range of health concerns, but these fields also may present complex choices that often require additional education and explanation to help individuals make the most informed choices. By engaging Latino leadership in discussions about such choices, NHGRI will work to ensure that this community benefits from the scientific advances.

In addition to government leaders, those attending the meeting will include representatives and leaders from Latino community health-care organizations, health advocacy groups and researchers from academia and private industry. Meeting participants will discuss strategies of how to involve more Latino patients and their families, as well as more Latino physicians and health-care workers, in the research

process. Participants will also address training in genomics for Latino students and researchers and ways to improve education and outreach efforts among Latino communities.

Limited seating is available at the meeting for members of the press and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please indicate your interest by contacting Geoff Spencer, 301-451-8325, [spencerg@mail.nih.gov](mailto:spencerg@mail.nih.gov).

NHGRI is one of the 27 institutes and centers at NIH, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. Additional information about NHGRI can be found at its Web site, [www.genome.gov](http://www.genome.gov).

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