

For Immediate Release

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Women's Center of Excellence Receives Grant Honor

TUCSON, Ariz. (March 10, 2008) - The University of Arizona National Center of Excellence in Women's Health (WCOE) at University Physicians Hospital has been awarded a \$2.1 million, five-year Race and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH US) grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention. The REACH U.S. program awarded 40 new grants this year. The highly competitive REACH Action Community grant award is a national acknowledgement/recognition of the work the WCOE and its partners in Pima County. The goal of the CDC's REACH U.S. program is to reduce health disparities nationwide.

Dr. Francisco Garcia, director of the UA National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, serves as the principle investigator for this grant. The WCOE will coordinate the county-wide effort employing community driven /designed interventions to reduce cervical cancer disparities impacting the health of Mexican-American women living near the US/Mexico border and will provide prevention training.

This community based partnership represents a collaboration between the WCOE, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, community residents, Pima County Health Department, El Rio Community Health Center, Tucson Unified School District, Sunnyside Unified School District, and other community based organizations. The partnership will develop prevention programs to be implemented over the next four years: a community health worker *train-the-trainer* program for lay community health workers; a bilingual *parent-to-parent peer educational program* to inform decision making regarding HPV vaccination for middle school aged girls; a *navigation program* to facilitate the follow up of abnormal screenings; and technical assistance to public sector entities regarding the incorporation of new screening technologies and vaccination.

University Physicians Hospital is operated by University Physicians Healthcare (UPH). UPH is a non-profit corporation created in 1985 as the medical practice of the physicians of the UA College of Medicine. Together, UPH, The University of Arizona, UPH Hospital and University Medical Center combine to care for patients, educate medical students, train young physicians and conduct clinical research. With over 350 physicians and 1,250 staff, UPH is Arizona's largest physicians group.

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