

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, February 3, 2010**

**Media Contact: Oscar Raúl López**  
**Phone: 646-246-7396**  
**Email: [info@latinoaidsagenda.org](mailto:info@latinoaidsagenda.org)**



## **NLAAN APPLAUDS THE APPOINTMENT OF THE 24 NEW MEMEMBERS TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HIV/AIDS**

---

**Washington, DC** – The National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN) congratulates all new members of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). We are confident that these distinguished individuals will effectively represent the needs of all communities affected by HIV and AIDS. NLAAN applauds President Obama for selecting leaders who not only represent communities but individuals who have worked tirelessly on behalf of a diverse community, including Latinos/Hispanics living with HIV/AIDS in the United States and its territories. We know that PACHA members will be tasked with an important role and challenge to the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic, especially domestically. While all members deserve mention of their appointment, we especially want to recognize five Latino leaders who were chosen to serve:

- Humberto Cruz, MS, Director, AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health, New York, NY
- Patricia Garcia, MD, MPH, Director, Women's HIV Center, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL
- Mario J. Pérez, Director, Office of AIDS Programs and Policy, Los Angeles, CA
- Rosie Pérez, Actor, Choreographer, and Director, New York, NY
- Sandra Torres-Rivera, Executive Director, Bill's Kitchen, San Juan, PR

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Latinos/Hispanics are disproportionately affected by HIV. Latinos/Hispanics represent approximately 16 percent of the U.S. population, but account for 19 percent of all new HIV infections in the United States each year. The overall HIV infection rate for Hispanics is three times as high as that of whites (29.3 per 100,000 versus 11.5). Estimated AIDS prevalence among Latinos increased by 26% between 2003 and 2007, compared to an 18% increase among whites, underscoring late testing and diagnosis and a lack of access to health care.

For a full list of PACHA membership:

<http://www.aids.gov/federal-resources/policies/pacha/#membership-anchor>

**About NLAAN:** The *National Latino Hispanic AIDS Action Network* (NLAAN) was developed as a response to the HIV/AIDS crisis within Latino/Hispanic communities and is a participatory, collaborative and diverse network of community-based organizations, national organizations, state and local health departments, researchers and concerned individuals that identifies and prioritizes the key needs of Latinos regarding HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment and research.

NLAAN  
24 West 25<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10010  
[www.latinoaidsagenda.org](http://www.latinoaidsagenda.org)