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Released: November 13, 2009

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Centers for Disease Control's Rodolfo Valdez to give public health seminar on Nov. 18 at Health Science Center

(Nov. 13, 2009) ... [The University of Texas at San Antonio](http://www.utsa.edu) (UTSA) invites the community to attend a public health seminar featuring Rodolfo Valdez at [The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio](http://www.uthscsa.edu) (UTHSCSA) campus on Nov. 18. The seminar is the third in a monthly series of [Seminars in Translational Research](http://www.uthscsa.edu) (STRECH), which are jointly hosted by UTSA and the Health Science Center to foster innovative research collaborations between the two institutions.

Since 1996, Valdez has served the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an epidemiologist in the National Office of Public Health Genomics and its Division of Diabetes Translation. His work has led to the development of a model that includes collecting, evaluating and reporting data about DNA testing for disorders with a genetic component. The CDC is currently using this model to develop a systematic process for evaluating genetic tests that are in transition from research to public health practice. Valdez has published more than 70 scholarly papers, having conducted research in Georgia, Texas, Pennsylvania and Venezuela.

Valdez's seminar, "Translating Our Knowledge of Family History Into Public Health Action," is scheduled for Wed., Nov. 18, 2009, 4-5 p.m. in the Academic and Administration Building, Room 110 on the Health Science Center's Central Campus at 7703 Floyd Curl Drive in San Antonio.

At the Nov. 18 lecture, Valdez will address the steps needed to use family history as a public health tool. He will also discuss the ways organizations are beginning to collect standardized family histories of common chronic diseases so that the information may become compatible with electronic medical records.

STRECH is a collaborative project between the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio's Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science / Novel Clinical and Translational Methodologies, UTSA's [Research Center in Minority Institutions](#), and the Joint UTSA-Health Science Center Graduate Program in [Biomedical Engineering](#).

The monthly STRECH seminars bring together investigators from basic, clinical and social sciences to highlight the bidirectional and multiple stages of the scientific translation of research discoveries, from the laboratory bench to the bedside and, ultimately, the community.

To learn more about the Nov. 18 lecture and upcoming STRECH seminars, visit <http://translationalseminars.utsa.edu/>.