



United States - Mexico Border Health Commission

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The Commission Welcomes New Members

On October 7, President George W. Bush named representatives from the four border states to serve as members of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission. The Commission extends a warm welcome to these new members and looks forward to a productive and successful working relationship. The new members attended an orientation in Washington, D.C. in early November, where they were provided an overview of the Commission. The new members are:

Emma Torres, who has been a strong border community leader and a health advocate for migrant and seasonal farm workers in Western Arizona for more than 20 years. She is a co-founder of *Campesinos Sin Fronteras*, a grassroots, community-based organization, and is one of the pioneers of the *Promotora* model program in Arizona. Presently, Ms. Torres serves as the vice-president for the Sunset Community Health Center Board of Directors. For her leadership, Ms. Torres has been recipient of various recognitions and awards. In 1999-2002 she received the Robert Wood Johnson, National Leadership Award, the *Orgullo Hispano* and the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association's Health Care Worker of the year.

Dr. Lawrence Kline, D.O., originally from Hazleton, Pennsylvania, is the medical director of the Scripps Clinic Sleep Center in La Jolla, Calif., and an associate adjunct professor in the Department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine of the Scripps Research Institute. Dr. Kline is a graduate of Temple University and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He served with the U.S. Public Health Service as the director of intensive care and as assistant chief of staff of medicine in

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New Commission members for the U.S. Section are from left: Emma Torres, Arizona; Lawrence E. Kline, California; Tommy G. Lindsey, New Mexico; and Jose Manuel de la Rosa,

USMBHC Binational Meeting held in Laredo

The Commission's Binational Meeting took place in Laredo, Texas on September 12. Rear Admiral Richard Walling called the meeting to order. The main order of business was the approval of the FY 2004 Work Plan and Budget, but due to a lack of quorum, the Commission members present voted to accept the budget with recommendations. The recommendations were ratified by the absent members on September 19.

In other business, Walling informed Commission members on the status of the application for Public International Organization. He stated that after the State Department clears the document, it would go to the Office of Management and Budget, and it is hoped that the process would be completed by the end of December.

Members were also updated on the Global Security for Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance Project. Funding in the amount of \$5.4 million has been

made available by the Department of Homeland Security to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to be allocated to the Commission and the border region to build infrastructure. The scope of work is in place and will be followed by an implementation plan in the near future. Secretary Thompson will be making the official award announcement at the 4th Annual Binational Meeting.

It was also reported that the compendium for the Border Models of Excellence has been completed in English and Spanish, and it is being utilized as a tool for the duplication of the award-winning projects.

Other events attended by Commission members included:

- Formal inauguration of the newly opened Nuevo Laredo Regional Outreach Office,
- Los Dos Laredos 7th Annual Binational Health Conference.

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Binational TB Case Management Project

The project, which was launched on March 27, 2003, as part of a World TB Day celebration in El Paso, Texas, has made great strides in the implementation of its protocols and the binational health card.

As of October, several pilot sites on both sides of the border have received training and are distributing the binational health card. In the United States, the pilot site of El Paso/Las Cruces has distributed 33 cards, and in San Diego, 89 cards have been distributed.

In Mexico, Ciudad Juarez has distributed 48 cards. In the Tijuana pilot site 153 cards were distributed, and in Matamoras, 200 cards were distributed.

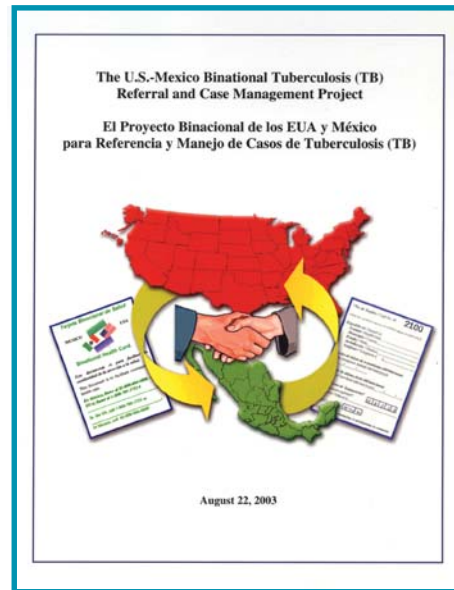
Other pilot sites on both sides of the border have either received training and are in the process of card distribution or will undergo training over the next few months.

The Project has also developed a bilingual manual to facilitate training at the pilot sites. The manual

outlines the protocols and procedures of the project and instructions on the utilization of the binational health card.

The CDC conducted initial site visits at the U.S. pilot sites in May and July. The National TB Program and the CDC will conduct site visits in Mexico in November. An all partners progress meeting is planned for the week of Jan. 19, 2004.

Both countries see the establishment and implementation of the Binational TB Case Management Project as a critical step in responding to the health crisis of tuberculosis in this region. If the project proves successful, the goal is to extend it to all of the United States and Mexico.



Farewell and Thanks to Departing Members

The USMBHC bids farewell to six members; the Hon. **Amanda Aguirre** of Yuma, Ariz., **Blair Sadler** of San Diego, Calif., **Jeffrey Brandon** of Las Cruces, NM, **Dr. Laurance Nickey** of El Paso, Texas, **Dr. Jesús Zacarías Villarreal Pérez** of Monterrey, Nuevo León, and **Dr. René Navarro Coronado** of Hermosillo, Sonora. The Commission extends its sincere appreciation for these members' support and unflagging service. Their commitment to the the Commission has been instrumental to its success and we wish them the best.

Department of Energy Partnership

The Commission has entered into a partnership with the Department of Energy's National Border Technology Partnership Program (NBTPP). The NBTPP deploys technology throughout the U.S.-Mexico border region as a means to reduce and better manage hazardous materials that threaten the region's public health and safety.

The Commission will be collaborating with the Applied Sciences Laboratory (ASL) in Albuquerque, NM, in an effort to deploy technologies that will have the greatest potential impact on improving the border region's public health and safety. The USMBHC will ascertain health and safety issues problem areas, while ASL will pursue technologies that can be deployed to help solve them. Additionally, the NBTPP will provide support for the continued development of the Commission's GIS Healthy Border Mapping Service.

• *New Members continued*

New York. Dr. Kline volunteers as a physician for the Sisters of Missionary of Charity and the Special Olympics. **Dr. Tommy G. Lindsey II, D.O.**, of Deming, New Mexico, is the director of surgery and director of the emergency room at Mimbres Memorial Hospital. He is also the founder and president of Mimbres Surgical Consultants and chairman of the Luna County Health Council. Dr. Lindsey received his doctor of osteopathic medicine from Michigan State University. He is a board-certified general surgeon and emergency room physician. Dr. Lindsey is a member of the American Osteopathic Association and the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, and is on the board of directors of the New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association.

Dr. Jose Manuel de la Rosa, is the regional dean for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in El Paso. Prior to this position, he served as the assistant dean for educational programs and as a professor in the school's Department of Pediatrics. Dr. de la Rosa was instrumental in the establishment of the Kellogg Community Partnership Clinics, four school-based clinics that provide medical services to underserved *colonia* residents in El Paso. He is involved with the Camp Courageous Candlelighter's Cancer Camp as well as the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso. Dr. de la Rosa received his bachelor's in biology/theology from the University of Notre Dame, and received his medical degree from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock.

BIDS Conference held in Cuernavaca

In 1997, the U.S.-Mexico Border Infectious Disease Surveillance Program (BIDS) was established in collaboration with the United States and Mexican border counties and states, the Mexico Secretariat of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

BIDS has established a network of epidemiologists and laboratories that contributes infectious disease surveillance data to provide epidemiologic information on diseases of mutual public health importance in this unique binational setting. The network includes Mexican federal, state and local epidemiologists and their U.S. counterparts in the border region. BIDS has been a catalyst in the planning for preparedness for emerging infectious diseases and early warning of possible bioterrorism-related events on this most highly crossed international frontier in the world.

The project currently includes 16 clinics and hospitals in 12 cities on both sides of the border. The fourth annual BIDS border wide conference was held in Cuernavaca, Mexico, in September 2003. In addition to bioterrorism and West Nile Virus, topics

discussed included control of measles in Mexico City, parasitic diseases of binational importance, internet-based disease reporting, and the development of the



U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission's geographic information system.

The Commission is partnering with BIDS in channeling funding for border surveillance activities in Mexico, fostering early warning for bioterrorism-related syndromes in the border region, and establishing a quality control system for BIDS border laboratories.

Commission Launches New Binational Web Page

The U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission has launched a new binational web page that will serve as the Commission's official web site. The new web page can be found at www.borderhealth.org. The goal of the new site is to provide valuable information about the Commission and the important work it performs toward

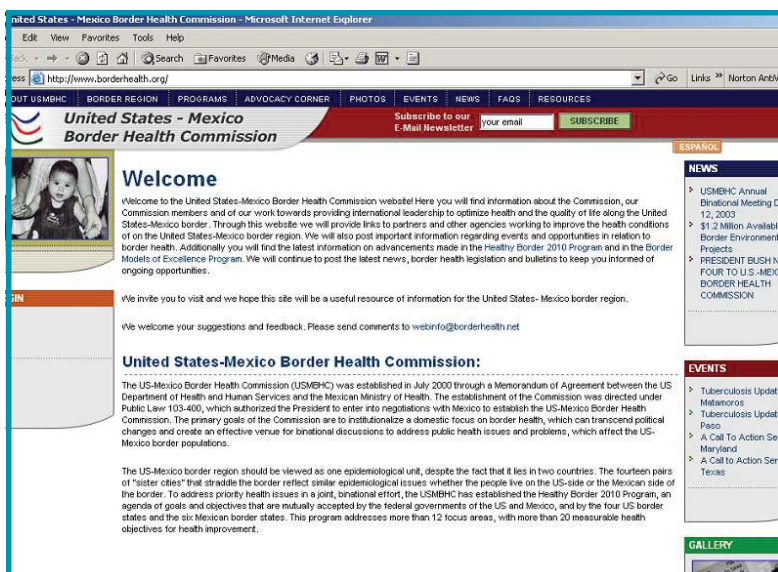
providing international leadership to optimize health and the quality of life along the United States-Mexico border.

The web site provides links to partners and other agencies that are working to improve health conditions on the United States-Mexico border region. The site also provides important information regarding events and opportunities related to border health.

Additionally, the site will feature the latest information on advancements made in the Healthy Border 2010 Program and in the Border Models of Excellence Program, and will continue to post the latest news, border health legislation and bulletins.

The site will also provide access to the USMBHC GIS Mapping Service.

The Commission invites you to visit the site and welcomes your feedback. We hope that it will be a useful resource of information for the U.S.-Mexico border region.



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Don't forget the **USMBHC 4th Annual Binational Meeting on December 12th** in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico. The meeting will be co-chaired by Secretary Tommy Thompson and Secretary Julio Frenk Mora.

For details visit our web site at: www.borderhealth.org or www.saludfrontera.org



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The USMBHC
newsletter can be found
on our web site at
www.borderhealth.org
or at
www.saludfronteriza.org.

Mission Statement

*To provide
international
leadership to
optimize
health and
the quality of
life along the
United
States-
Mexico
Border.*

Quarterly Highlights

• **Dr. Laurance Nickey**, of El Paso, Texas, was recently awarded the Rene Mascareñas Miranda International Excellence Award on October 22 in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. This award, given by the Margarita Miranda de Mascareñas Foundation, recognizes individuals from Mexico and the United States who have contributed to improve the quality of life along the U.S.-Mexico border.



• **Dr. Catherine Torres**, of Albuquerque, NM, represented the Commission at the Critical Infrastructure Work Group meeting in Mexico City.

• **USMBHC 2003 Annual Report**-The Commission published and produced its third annual report, which was presented to the governments of both countries on October 1. This attractive report features a graphic of the border illustrated with the flags of both nations. An executive summary of the report has also been published which contains the a shortened version of the report, including the 2003 recommendations to the governments, which are:

- Increase and Improve Access to Quality Preventive Care;
- Improve Disease Prevention Efforts, Health Education Delivery and Disease Control Procedures;

- Improve Health Workforce Development, Training, Placement and Retention; and
 - Improve Public Health Infrastructure.
- The report will soon be available on the USMBHC web site at www.borderhealth.org under the Resources Section, or you can request a copy by mail from:

U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission
Central Office
201 E. Main Dr., Suite 1616
El Paso, Texas 79901

• **Healthy Border 2010: An Agenda for Improving Health on the United States-Mexico Border**- After several months of collaborative and binational work, the Commission is pleased to announce the electronic publication of Healthy Border 2010: An Agenda for Improving Health on the United States-Mexico Border. This significant report outlines the 10-year bilateral agenda for the Healthy Border Program, providing year 2000 baseline data and year 2010 targets.

The Healthy Border Program establishes 10-year objectives for binational health promotion and disease prevention in the border region, based on common health indicators from the United States and Mexico.

The printed form of the publication is currently in production and will be available by the end of November. To view or download the electronic version, visit the USMBHC web site at www.borderhealth.org, and go to the Resources section. The publication is in the Document Library. You will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader to view or download the document.

State Outreach Activities

- The New Mexico Outreach Office, in conjunction with the Southern Area Health Education Center, held a luncheon on October 2 at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, to recognize the New Mexico programs that received the Border Models of Excellence Award.
- The states of Arizona and Sonora joined forces to offer the first-ever joint childhood immunization program. The program got underway on Saturday, June 7, in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora. The campaign coincided with the annual three-week immunization program in Mexico. In Yuma, Ariz., health officials decided to hold a special week beginning that Saturday to correspond with the Mexican campaign. It's estimated that as many as 80,000 children received free inoculations.
- Through the bilateral and collaborative efforts of more than 300 organizations from the United States and Mexico, the states of California and Baja California presented the third annual Binational Health Week, a series of health promotion and education activities, from October 11-19, 2003. Activities were conducted across 22 California counties and eight Mexican states. During the week, the Third Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Health was held at the University of



California, Los Angeles, on October 16-17. Legislative representatives from California and Mexico, state agency directors, union leaders and key stakeholders convened to discuss migrant and immigrants' health challenges, and to explore the opportunity of working collaboratively to improve the health and well-being of the migrant population.

- Health officials from the 10 border states convened at a binational workshop on the Prevention and Control of the West Nile Virus, on September 10 in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. The objective of the workshop was to establish collaborative, binational efforts to detect, prevent and control the outbreak of the West Nile Virus.