



For immediate release:  
June 26, 2007

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**17th U.S. SURGEON GENERAL RICHARD H. CARMONA, M.D., M.P.H., FACS  
JOINS PFIZER AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
CENTERS TO ADDRESS THE ALARMING RATES OF DIABETES AND  
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN HISPANIC COMMUNITIES**

***America's Top Latino Health Experts Convene at the 2007 Alliance  
for a Healthy Border Regional Conference to Reduce Diabetes and  
Cardiovascular Disease in Latino Communities***

CORONADO, CALIFORNIA, June 26 -- Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS, 17th Surgeon General of the United States (2002-2006), vice chairman of Canyon Ranch, president of the Canyon Ranch Institute, and Distinguished Professor of Public Health at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona, promoted partnerships as essential to reducing the burden of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in Latino communities during remarks at the *2007 Pfizer Alliance for a Healthy Border Regional Conference - Prevention and Promise for the Future*.

Sponsored by Pfizer and the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), the Conference brings together more than forty health centers from along the U.S.-Mexico border, government agencies and top Latino leaders, including the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission, CDC, Border Counties Coalition, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association and the Pan American Health Organization. The Conference will focus on strengthening

organizational capacity to support the sustainability and delivery of effective diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention services and programs for Latino communities.

Diabetes and cardiovascular disease are reaching epidemic levels in the U.S. Hispanic population. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that Hispanics are almost twice as likely as non-Hispanic whites to suffer from diabetes and are often unaware that they are at high-risk for other cardiovascular diseases, the leading cause of death in the U.S. Risk factors for diabetes and cardiovascular disease are particularly high in the border region, where the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that nearly 14 percent of the population is pre-diabetic and nearly three-quarters of men and women are overweight.

"Diabetes and cardiovascular disease know no borders," Dr. Carmona said. "So it is critically important that public, private, and professional organizations - on both sides of the border - join together to improve the health of people throughout this diverse region. By building on community strengths and adding resources to the fight against preventable diseases, we can dramatically improve the lives of so many people in the Latino community. I applaud the Alliance for a Healthy Border, the NACHC, and Pfizer for their efforts to promote the health of people living in the U.S.-Mexico border region."

Through the Alliance for a Healthy Border, Pfizer has committed \$3.5 million in grants, capacity building and networking resources to community health centers across the four border states in the U.S. and six border states in Mexico to help them develop or expand diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention programs. The grants support a range of prevention activities and materials to help individuals and their families adopt "heart healthy" habits into their daily lives and reduce their risk of developing diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

"Alliance for a Healthy Border/*Alianza por una Frontera Saludable* builds on Pfizer's long-standing commitment to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes for underserved populations, said Robert Mallett, senior vice president of Pfizer Inc. "We believe that by partnering in a conference like this, we can promote the sharing of new knowledge and resources and better equip health care workers to fight the diabetes and cardiovascular disease epidemic in their communities."

"Public-private partnerships are critical in the fight against diabetes and cardiovascular disease and NACHC applauds the work of the Alliance for a Healthy Border," said Tom Van Coverden, president & CEO, NACHC. "Community Health Centers are the family doctor and health care home to thousands of men, women, and children along the US-Mexico border and Pfizer's support has helped advance their efforts to provide culturally competent quality health care to these underserved communities."

#### Pfizer Inc

Pfizer is committed to helping people improve their health by discovering and developing medicines and informing patients and health care providers about our medicines and the medical conditions they treat. Through multiple initiatives, Pfizer aims to ensure access to treatments and to educate, empower and motivate patients to take the necessary steps to lead longer, healthier and happier lives.

#### NACHC

Established in 1971, NACHC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to represent the interests of federally-supported and other federally-qualified health centers and to serve as an information source concerning issues of health care for poor and medically underserved populations in the U.S.

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