



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Hispanic Medical Association Announces Rafael Saenz, M.S., Pharm.D.,
as New Executive Director**

WASHINGTON — The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) is proud to announce the appointment of Rafael Saenz, M.S., Pharm.D., as its new Executive Director. With a distinguished career in health care leadership and a strong commitment to advancing access to health care, Saenz brings extensive expertise in operations, strategic planning and advocacy to NHMA.

Saenz joins NHMA from the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), where he served as Chief Operations Officer and Chief of Staff since 2020. In his role at APhA, Saenz successfully led day-to-day operations, executed strategic initiatives and helped steer the organization through critical periods of growth and transformation. He also served as Chief Pharmacy Officer at the University of Virginia (UVA), overseeing the pharmacy enterprise and contributing significantly to patient outcomes through innovative medication management services.

A passionate advocate for underserved communities, Saenz's career has been defined by his commitment to improving access to health care and medication, particularly in rural and underprivileged areas. His leadership in expanding pharmacy residency programs at UVA and his global experience establishing medication safety services in international markets demonstrate his ability to foster innovation while prioritizing patient care.

"I chose a career in health care because I am passionate about providing the best care for people," said Saenz. "I am honored to be at NHMA and to further its mission of empowering Hispanic physicians and advancing opportunities for all. I wouldn't be here

without the love and support of my community, and I am excited to take on this new challenge."

Saenz's appointment to NHMA comes at a pivotal moment as the organization seeks to strengthen its impact in addressing health disparities affecting Hispanic communities. As executive director, Saenz will work to further NHMA's mission of promoting the highest quality of health care for Hispanic Americans and providing leadership and advocacy for Hispanic and Latino healthcare professionals.

"Rafael Saenz's exceptional track record in health care leadership and advocacy closely mirrors the core values and vision of NHMA." said Gilbert Burgos, M.D., MPH, and Chair of the NHMA Board of Directors. "His expertise in driving impactful initiatives, enhancing health care access, and championing underserved communities will be invaluable as we continue our mission to strengthen the health and well-being of Hispanic communities. I am confident that his leadership will bring fresh perspectives, dedication and an unwavering commitment to advancing the health and well-being of our community."

Saenz is a native of the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas, where he grew up along the Mexican/U.S. border. His deep connection to his heritage is central to his professional and personal mission.

In addition to his leadership roles, Saenz has contributed extensively to various professional organizations, including serving as Chairman of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy and as a mentor and advocate for professional development in the pharmacy and health care sectors.

For more information contact Fernanda Durand fdurand@nhmamd.org. To learn more about NHMA and its ongoing initiatives, please visit www.nhmamd.org (<http://www.nhmamd.org>).

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About NHMA:

The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of over 50,000 licensed Hispanic physicians in the United States. NHMA aims to improve the health of Hispanic and other underserved populations through advocacy, research, and education. By addressing the unique healthcare challenges faced by these communities, NHMA strives to achieve health equity for all