



**Jose Rodriguez-Garcia, MD, AAHIVS**

Medical Director  
Spectrum Medical Care Center  
Phoenix, AZ

Dr. Rodriguez is the Medical Director at Spectrum Medical Care Center located in Phoenix, Az. His goal is “Ending the HIV Epidemic” by working in collaboration with multiple agencies across Arizona. He has implemented numerous programs including long-injectable treatment for HIV, rapid linkage to

care for newly diagnosed HIV patients and increasing PrEP services. His main focus is improving the social determinants of health for equitable HIV and PrEP health access.



**Petra Fimbres**

Founder & CEO of LatinaStrong  
Co-chair, NHMA Phoenix Chapter  
Phoenix, Arizona

Petra Fimbres is the founder and CEO of LatinaStrong®. For over 20 years, she has served on local and national health boards helping to raise critical funds for health related research, programmatic initiatives, and community health service initiatives. She is a community leader that serves with passion alongside others and is an enthusiastic team player that finds joy in connecting

people and building people. Petra’s passion is to bring health information and health promotion and resources to Latinas across the state and the nation, encouraging them to take their health into their own hands. Petra is the founder of Frida’s Garden, a non-profit arm of the BRACE Foundation, whose mission is to help local artists achieve better health and sits on multiple national boards including Maricopa Medical Society Board of Trustees, Los Abogados, Kids’ Chance of Arizona, National Association of Hispanic Nurses- Communications Committee, Co-Chair of the National Hispanic Medical Association- Phoenix Chapter.



## **CDR Michelle Sandoval-Rosario**

### **Program Director, Region IX (CA, NV, & AZ) Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE)**

CDR Michelle Sandoval-Rosario currently serves as the Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE) Program Director for Region IX (CA, NV, & AZ) and HIV.gov Deputy Director within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP), where she leads and supports efforts to end the HIV epidemic across the region. Prior to joining the OASH, CDR

Sandoval-Rosario was with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 13 years and has extensive experience working with state/local government entities and other partners both in the US and overseas on a variety of public health initiatives ranging from HIV, polio, chronic diseases, women and children's health to the implementation and evaluation of collaborative programs.

In her previous position with the CDC, CDR Sandoval-Rosario was a Senior Epidemiologist with the Division of Population Health assigned to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) where she provided leadership and technical assistance on epidemiology and surveillance efforts to address health disparities. She also worked with the Indiana State Department of Health where she provided critical leadership during high-profile infectious disease investigations, including one of the largest rural community outbreaks of the HIV infection among injection drug users. CDR Sandoval-Rosario has worked with the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine in Los Angeles, CA and the United States Mexico Unit in El Paso, Texas. Prior to joining the USPHS, CDR Sandoval-Rosario was a CDC Council of State and Territorial Epidemiology Fellow working on border health research in the United States Mexico border region and the Rio Grande. CDR Sandoval-Rosario has deployed on several missions, both domestically and internationally.

CDR Sandoval-Rosario graduated from the University of California, Irvine where she received her BA in Psychology and Social Behavior with a minor in Public Health and Epidemiology. She received her MPH in Epidemiology from Boston University School of Public Health and her DrPH from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health.



## **Melanie Taylor, MD, MPH, CAPT, USPHS**

Medical Epidemiologist  
Arizona Department of Health Services and  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
(CDC)  
Division of HIV Prevention

Melanie Taylor MD, MPH is an infectious disease/internal medicine (ABIM) physician. She is a Captain in the US Public Health Service and a Medical Epidemiologist for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). During 2016-2020, she was assigned to the World Health Organization in Geneva Switzerland to lead global efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of syphilis. She is a practicing HIV physician (AAHIVS) at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center.

She has been a clinical associate professor with the University of Arizona College of Medicine Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine since 2012. She is currently assigned by the CDC Division of HIV Prevention to the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Maricopa County Health Department where she assists with STD and HIV treatment and prevention at the public STD clinic.



## **Hector Araujo**

Community Engagement Manager  
Co-Host, LatinaStrong Foundation Men's Board  
Co-Chair

Based in Phoenix, AZ, Hector holds an M.A. in Higher Education and a B.A. in Political Science from The University of Arizona. Hector has over a decade of experience working with National nonprofits, college systems, media and government entities, in community engagement, coalition-building, public policy, and legislative advocacy, with a focus on youth leadership development, post-secondary access programming, workforce development, public health, and health equity.

