

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Samuel Arce, MD, FAAFP

Chairman

Family Physician and Attending Physician
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Jamaica, NY

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH

President & CEO

National Hispanic Medical Association,
Washington, DC

Ana Maria Lopez, MD, MPH, FACP

Secretary

Associate Vice President for Health
Equity and Inclusion, University of Utah
Health Sciences Center, Director of Cancer
Health Equity, Huntsman Cancer Institute,
Professor of Medicine, University of Utah
School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah

Nelson Reyneri

Treasurer

Vice President, Sales and External Affairs
Liberty Power, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Judith Flores, MD, FAAP, CHQM

Chairwoman-Elect

Clinical Associate Professor
New York University School of Medicine
New York, NY

Katherine A. Flores, MD

Immediate-Past Chairwoman

Director, UCSF-Fresno, Latino Center for
Medical Education & Research, Fresno, CA

David Carlisle, MD, PhD

President and CEO

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine
& Biomedical Sciences, Los Angeles, CA

Nerieda Correa, MD

Eastchester Medical Associates, PC, Bronx, NY

Efrain Fuentes, EDD

Los Angeles, CA

Jorge A. Girotti, PhD, MA

Associate Dean and Director, Special Curricular
Programs, Admissions, Hispanic Center of Excellence
Assistant Professor, Medical Education
UIC College of Medicine, Chicago IL

Antonio Linares, MD

Medical Director and Regional VP, Anthem Blue Cross
Health & Wellness Solutions, Indianapolis, IN

Flavia E. Mercado, MD

Medical Director, Inovalon, Inc.
Adjunct Professor, Snelville, GA

Jorge G. Puente, MD

Managing Partner
Pleasanton Pharma Ventures, Northport, NY

Diana Ramos, MD, MPH

Director, Reproductive Health, Los Angeles County
Public Health, Laguna Beach, CA

Vanessa Saucedo, MD, MPH, FAAP

Chairwoman, NHMA Council of Young Physicians
Union Community Health Center, New York, NY

Minerva Romero-Arenas, MD, MPH

Chairwoman, NHMA Council of Residents
General Surgery Resident, Sinai Hospital
Baltimore, MD

Eric Molina

President, Latino Medical Student Association
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

Minerva Campos, MD, MPH

Washington, DC

Carlos Corral, MD, FACS

New Mexico Cardiovascular Associates
Las Cruces, NM

Claudia H. Zamora, MPA

Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP
Washington, DC

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS

17th US Surgeon General (2002-2006)
Vice Chairman, Canyon Ranch Institute
Distinguished Professor, Zuckerman College of
Public Health, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Henry Cisneros

Chairman, CityView, San Antonio, TX

Ivelisse Estrada

Senior Vice President for Corporate and
Community Relations, Univision, Los Angeles, CA

Linda Griego

President & CEO, Griego Enterprises, Inc.
Los Angeles, CA

Paloma Hernandez

President and CEO Urban Health Plan, Inc.
Bronx, NY

Yasmine Winkler

Senior VP Innovation and Productivity
United HealthCare, Chicago, IL

Richard Zapanta, MD

Orthopedic Surgeon, Monterey Park, CA



February 3, 2017

Senator David Wilson
Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Committee

Senator Mia Costello
Chair, Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Wilson and Senator Costello:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Medical Association, we urge you to vote yes for SB 32, FDA-designated interchangeable biological drug products.

These bills authorize a pharmacist to substitute an alternative biological product when filling a prescription for a prescribed biological product if the alternative biological product is designated as interchangeable with the reference product and communication is provided to the patient and physician that a substitution was made. These bills would also require that the substitution of a biological product be communicated to the patient.

We recognize the rising use of biologics and biosimilars in our population now aging with increased chronic disease. Biosimilars go through an extensive review process and manufacturers are required to submit immense studies and data demonstrating a products' efficacy and ensuring it is safe for use by consumers. A pathway for biosimilar regulation in the U.S. was established as a provision of the 2008 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and in 2012 the FDA issued draft guidelines for biosimilars and a list of biosimilars and interchangeable biological products.

In summary, the National Hispanic Medical Association recommends your support for SB 32 before the end of session to clarify the procedures for biosimilar substitution for biologic treatments in a way that increases safety for the patient. We are especially supportive since these bills will provide increased access to quality treatment for Hispanics and all persons from Alaska with chronic diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elena Rios'.

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, FACP
President & CEO