



## Program Information and Application



*Éxito! Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training* is led by Dr. Amelie Ramirez of the Institute for Health Promotion Research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, thanks to a National Cancer Institute grant (1R25CA134301-01A2), with support from the Cancer Therapy & Research Center, *Redes En Acción* and the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Visit us at <http://ihpr.uthscsa.edu/exito.html>

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**ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED  
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013**

**DELIVER ALL MATERIAL TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:  
Faxed/emailed applications are NOT accepted.**

Institute for Health Promotion Research  
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
Attn: *Éxito!* program  
7411 John Smith Drive, Suite 1000  
San Antonio, Texas 78229

**Please send all questions to: [exito@uthscsa.edu](mailto:exito@uthscsa.edu)**

**Applicants should refer to the Application FAQs found on our website  
(<http://ihpr.uthscsa.edu/exito.html>) for more information on applying.**

For additional information contact the *Éxito!* program staff:

Rebecca Adeigbe  
Office: (210) 562-6525

Cynthia Wittenburg  
Office: (915) 929-2268

IHPR general office  
(210) 562-6500

*Éxito!* program website  
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## PREFACE

Cancer health disparities (CHD) research is a multi-disciplinary field that combines basic and applied studies in behavioral, social and population health sciences. The aims of this research are to reduce cancer risk, incidence, morbidity and mortality, and particularly the disproportionate burden experienced by low-income, ethnically diverse communities.

The *Éxito! Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training (Éxito!)* program was created to increase diversity in the field of Latino CHD research by encouraging Latino students in master's-level health programs, as well as master's-trained health professionals, to pursue a doctoral degree and a career in research.

*Éxito!*, funded by a five-year National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant, aims to achieve the following:

- Annually recruit 20 Latino master's-level students or master's-trained health professionals to attend the five-day *Éxito!* Summer Institute.
- Offer eligible *Éxito!* participants the opportunity to complete one of nine paid internships in Latino CHD research.
- Demonstrate that the *Éxito!* Summer Institute and *Éxito!* internships had a positive influence on participants' interest in pursuing a doctoral degree and career in Latino CHD research.

If you are considering applying to the *Éxito!* program, you can expect to be part of an elite cohort of individuals who receive mentorship from nationally and internationally recognized researchers in the field of CHD research. The *Éxito!* program was designed to inform individuals about the different research fields within CHD and provide information—while not exhaustive—about resources, things to consider and tips for applying to and completing a doctoral program.

If you want to pursue a doctoral degree and you have an interest in Latino CHD research we encourage you to apply.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

There is considerable diversity among master's-level student populations training in health at many academic institutions. However, only a small proportion of Latino students go on to pursue doctoral degrees, resulting in a national shortage of experienced minority investigators in cancer prevention and control.

In response, the *Éxito!* program is led by Dr. Amelie Ramirez of the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), thanks to a National Cancer Institute grant, with support from the Cancer Therapy & Research Center, *Redes En Acción* and the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### The *Éxito!* program is designed to enhance participants':

- ❖ Understanding of the power of research to affect change.
- ❖ Awareness of the strengths and limitations of current research methods, theory and interventions in eliminating cancer health disparities in Latino populations.
- ❖ Interest in cancer control research, from surveillance to epidemiology, individual behavior change, health services, and policy research.
- ❖ Skills in research, networking, information seeking, and motivation to successfully apply to a doctoral program.

The *Éxito!* program consists of two components:

#### 1. **Summer Institute: “Careers in Latino Cancer Control Research”**

A five-day Summer Institute designed to showcase the opportunities and need for Latino researchers in CHD research. Through the Institute, 20 participants will acquire the motivation, skills, and resources needed to apply to a doctoral program. Participating faculty include role models and leaders in research from around the country. **Attendance at the entire five-day program is required.**

#### 2. **Student Internships**

Master's-level students and master's level graduates who apply for the *Éxito!* program can also apply for one of nine paid internship opportunities. Internships are available for those who are accepted into the program and attend the five-day *Éxito!* Summer Institute.

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

**Eligibility is based on the following criteria:**

- ❖ Minority Hispanic/Latino\* student in a master’s-level health program\*\* or master’s-trained health professional. Current doctoral students or those already accepted into doctoral programs are *ineligible* to apply.
- ❖ Good academic standing (minimum “B” average).
- ❖ Strong verbal, written, interpersonal, and organizational skills.

*\* We define “minority Hispanic/Latino” as those communities who are underrepresented and experience an excess or unknown burden in the field of health disparities and cancer control research.*

*\*\* Students must have completed, at minimum, the first semester of a master’s program by the start of the Summer Institute (June 2013).*

## TIMELINE

March 1, 2013	Applications due
March 1-30, 2013	Class of 2013 selection process
April 2-6, 2013	Summer Institute participants and internship awardees are notified
June 3 – June 7, 2013	<i>Éxito!</i> Summer Institute: “Careers in Latino Cancer Control Research”
June 2013	<i>Éxito!</i> internships begin

## LEADERSHIP

The *Éxito!* program is led by Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez, Director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA). Other IHPR researchers involved are IHPR Deputy Director Mr. Kip Gallion, Ms. Rebecca Adeigbe and Mrs. Cynthia Wittenburg. Dr. Rena Pasick, director of the Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research (MTPCCR) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, is a co-principal investigator.

## SUMMER INSTITUTE TENTATIVE AGENDA (*Subject to Change*)

### **Day 1: *What's going on in Latino cancer health disparities research and why we are here.***

- Me and my culture.
- Latino cancer health disparities.
- Building a career in health disparities or cancer control research.

### **Day 2: *Population-based research in action: The difference having a doctoral degree makes.***

- It all starts here: finding out who gets cancer and other common health disparities and why.
- Research on cancer trends and health disparities.
- Affecting change to reduce the disproportionate and unnecessary Latino health crisis: community intervention research.

### **Day 3: *The challenges to the inside researcher and tools of the trade: Why culture matters.***

- Navigating a diverse society for cancer control and other Latino health disparities.
- Accessing culture through qualitative research.
- Qualitative and quantitative research design: pulling it all together.

### **Day 4: *How to apply: Hear from the experts.***

- Putting on my researcher hat.
- NCI resources: doctoral level and beyond.
- Getting in and getting through a doctoral program: doctoral student panel.

### **Day 5: *Stepping out: Transition from student to researcher.***

- Show me the money: how to fund a doctoral program.
- Ethnic identity in politics.
- Graduation lunch.

## FUNDING

Invited participants will receive free registration, travel, lodging, breakfast and lunch during the five-day Summer Institute in San Antonio, TX. **DISCLAIMER: Once the applicant accepted into the *Éxito!* program agrees to attend the Summer Institute and submits the signed contract, travel and lodging arrangements will be made and paid for by the *Éxito!* program. The participant will be held responsible for reimbursing the *Éxito!* program for all associated travel and lodging costs if they do not attend the Summer Institute.**

Please send all questions to: [exito@uthscsa.edu](mailto:exito@uthscsa.edu)

**Applicants should refer to the Application FAQs found on our website (<http://ihpr.uthscsa.edu/exito.html>) for more information.**

For additional information contact the *Éxito!* program staff:

Rebecca Adeigbe  
Office: (210) 562-6525

IHPR general office  
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Cynthia Wittenburg  
Office: (915) 929-2268

*Éxito!* program website  
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Applicants Name (Last, First):  
Applicants Email:



## PART A

# PROGRAM APPLICATION

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST

The following general guidelines apply to all applications.

- Applications must be printed and received via mail (FedEx, UPS are also acceptable carriers).
- Prior to sending your application, please verify all materials against the below checklist and **ensure that your name is placed on all documents** submitted.
- Do not staple the documents together.
- An application cannot be reviewed unless ALL the necessary documents are received. In order to be eligible for selection, all application materials **must be received NO LATER THAN Friday, March 1, 2013**. Applications received after that date will not be considered.
- Faxed/e-mailed applications ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

#### **APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

Section 1: Application Form

Section 2: Verification of GPA

Section 3: Personal Statement

Section 4: Resume or Curriculum Vitae

Section 5: Two Letters of Recommendation

Applicants Name (Last, First):  
Applicants Email:

## SECTION 1

### APPLICATION FORM

Please type or print clearly

*Statement of Confidentiality:* The information requested in this application is for the purpose of determining the applicant's eligibility for the *Éxito!* program. Information received is kept confidential.

<b>Name</b>			
Last	First	Middle	
<b>Mailing Address:</b>			
<b>Permanent Address (if different from above):</b>			
<b>Daytime Telephone: (    )</b>		<b>Evening Telephone: (    )</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>			
<b>Date of Birth:</b>			
<b>Citizenship:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Citizen	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S Permanent Resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Gender:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	
<b>Are you Hispanic or Latino?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Racial/Ethnic Background (Please check all that apply)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black/African American heritage (please specify):		
<input type="checkbox"/>	American Indian/Alaska Native (please specify):		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian (please specify):		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic/Latino (please specify):		
<input type="checkbox"/>	White (please specify):		
<input type="checkbox"/>	More than one race (please specify):		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):		



Applicants Name (Last, First):  
Applicants Email:

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT**

By signing below, I certify that I am eligible to apply to the *Éxito!* program. To the best of my knowledge, the information I have provided in this application is complete and accurate.

*print/type name*

*signature*

*date*

**SIGNATURE OF FACULTY ADVISOR**

**For current students only:** As faculty advisor to the applicant, I certify that the candidate is a current student of a master's degree health program. I endorse the applicant as a qualified candidate for the *Éxito!* program.

*print/type name*

*signature*

*date*

## SECTION 2

### VERIFICATION OF GPA

To be eligible for the *Éxito!* program you must be in good academic standing (minimum “B” average).

- Include a copy of current, past and final school transcripts with your application.
- Transcripts should be included along with your application.
- Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.

## SECTION 3

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

In a separate document, provide a 300-500 word personal statement.

- Personal statement should be:
  - Typed using Arial or Times New Roman 12-point font
  - Single spaced
  - Have 1" margins on all sides
  - Include a page header with your last name and first name
  - Placed on standard-sized paper (8.5" x 11")

The personal statement should address the following:

- Discuss academic experience and career goals
- Discuss your current exposure to cancer health disparities research
- Include your current or possible cancer health disparities research interest(s)
- Describe motivation/reasoning for applying to the *Éxito!* program
- State your goals and expectations of the *Éxito!* program

**Please note:** Individuals selected for the *Éxito!* program will have their statements critiqued by a writing specialist and handed back at the Summer Institute as a resource for future applications.

## SECTION 4

### RESUME OR CURRICULUM VITAE

Provide a copy of your resume or Curriculum Vitae.

Applicants Name (Last, First):  
Applicants Email:

## SECTION 5

### LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FORM # 1

The individual submitting this form is applying for *Éxito! Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training*, a National Cancer Institute-funded program designed to showcase the opportunities and need for Latino researchers in cancer health disparities research, and to provide motivation, skills and resources to enable master's students and master's-trained professionals to pursue doctoral education.

#### General Information:

- Applicant must obtain two letters of recommendation from faculty members or work supervisors, stating their support for the student as a qualified candidate for the *Éxito!* program.
- If unable to obtain two letters of support, one letter may be from a faculty member or work supervisor who can comment on applicant's academic and research potential.
- Program selection is determined by applicant information and recommendations.
- **Letters of recommendation can be mailed directly to the *Éxito!* program by the recommender (see below for mailing instructions) OR returned to the applicant in a signed and sealed envelope for the applicant to submit along with their application. Either way, applications and recommendation letters must both be received no later than March 1, 2013.**
- **Applicants** are asked to review and sign (if in agreement) the below statement:

In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the applicant may waive his/her right to inspect the recommendation by signing the statement below. This waiver is not required as a condition for selection to the *Éxito!* program.

**"I hereby waive my right of access to this information and release UTHSCSA to contact this recommender with regard to my application for the *Éxito!* program."**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print/type applicant's name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*applicant's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*date*

### **RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013**

**DELIVER ALL MATERIAL TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:  
Faxed/emailed recommendations are NOT accepted.**

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Applicants Name (Last, First):  
Applicants Email:

Recommender's Name:	
Credentials:	Position/Title:
Institution:	
Address:	
Telephone: (      )	Fax: (      )
E-mail Address:	

**PART A**

**Applicant Assessment. Please evaluate the applicant using the following criteria and scale.**

	Unable to Evaluate	Poor		Average		Exceptional
	0	1	2	3	4	5
1. Has vision and is open to new ideas and possibilities						
2. Is organized in thinking and methodology						
3. Is motivated to advance career						
4. Manages competing priorities						
5. Works well under pressure						
6. Is a respected member of peer groups						
7. Works well with diverse groups of people						
8. Assumes initiative						
9. Assumes responsibility						
10. Writes and speaks effectively						
11. Has potential to attain a doctoral degree						

**PART B**

**Letter of Recommendation**

- Please complete your letter of recommendation on a separate letter head.
- Place the applicants name on the upper right hand corner.
- Limit recommendations to 300-500 words.
- Describe the nature of your relationship to the applicant. Be sure to discuss applicant's:
  - Present academic performance in his/her area of concentration.
  - Potential motivation and ability for the pursuit of a doctorate.
  - Commitment to applying to a doctoral program in a field related to Latino health disparities including cancer control research.
  - Aptitude and potential for a career in cancer control research.

**SIGNATURE OF RECOMMENDER**

By signing below, I certify that the information I have given regarding the applicant is complete and accurate.

print/type name and title

signature

date

Applicants Name (Last, First):  
Applicants Email:

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FORM # 2

The individual submitting this form is applying for *Éxito! Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training*, a National Cancer Institute-funded program designed to showcase the opportunities and need for Latino researchers in cancer health disparities research, and to provide motivation, skills and resources to enable master's students and master's-trained professionals to pursue doctoral education.

### General Information:

- Applicant must obtain two letters of recommendation from faculty members or work supervisors, stating their support for the student as a qualified candidate for the *Éxito!* program.
- If unable to obtain two letters of support, one letter may be from a faculty member or work supervisor who can comment on applicant's academic and research potential.
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applicant's signature

date

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Applicants Name (Last, First):  
Applicants Email:

Recommender's Name:	
Credentials:	Position/Title:
Institution:	
Address:	
Telephone: (      )	Fax: (      )
E-mail Address:	

**PART A**  
**Applicant Assessment. Please evaluate the applicant using the following criteria and scale.**

	Unable to Evaluate	Poor		Average		Exceptional
	0	1	2	3	4	5
12. Has vision and is open to new ideas and possibilities						
13. Is organized in thinking and methodology						
14. Is motivated to advance career						
15. Manages competing priorities						
16. Works well under pressure						
17. Is a respected member of peer groups						
18. Works well with diverse groups of people						
19. Assumes initiative						
20. Assumes responsibility						
21. Writes and speaks effectively						
22. Has potential to attain a doctoral degree						

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**Letter of Recommendation**

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  - Commitment to applying to a doctoral program in a field related to Latino health disparities including cancer control research.
  - Aptitude and potential for a career in cancer control research.

**SIGNATURE OF RECOMMENDER**

By signing below, I certify that the information I have given regarding the applicant is complete and accurate.

print/type name and title

signature

date