

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***Día del Corazón Sano /Heart Healthy Day Helps Latina/o Communities Tackle High Cholesterol and Heart Disease Risk
One in Four U.S. Hispanic Adults Has Elevated Cholesterol****

FEBRUARY 21, 2006- The National Latina Health Network in partnership with AstraZeneca, is holding a *Día del Corazón Sano / Heart Healthy Day* in six cities across the country on February 25th during National Heart Month . *Heart Healthy Day* will include FREE blood pressure and cholesterol screenings – both critical to maintaining a healthy heart, – and an opportunity for participants to speak briefly with a bi-lingual health counselor, receive educational materials about cardiovascular risk factors and leave with personal information to take to their doctors. All materials will be available in English and Spanish.

Heart Healthy Day is part of a national public service initiative sponsored by AstraZeneca to educate the community about the risks of elevated cholesterol, high blood pressure, and cardiovascular disease and to help curb the rates of heart disease in the Latino/Hispanic community. One in four U.S. Hispanic adults has elevated cholesterol.* In addition, heart disease is the leading cause of death among Latinos/Hispanics in the U.S., according to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. Latinos/Hispanics are twice as likely to have diabetes, a contributor to heart disease, than non- Latinos/Hispanics and are most affected by the obesity epidemic.

“Screening efforts like this offer people in our communities a valuable opportunity to learn more about their own cardiovascular risk factors,” said Elena Alvarado, President and CEO of National Latina Health Network, a nationwide health organization for Hispanic women and their families. “It is critical that everyone take control of their health – that means knowing your heart numbers like blood pressure and cholesterol, maintaining healthy lifestyles including proper diet and exercise and regular visits to the doctor.”

Heart Healthy Day activities will be taking place in **Miami, New York City, Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles** and **Washington DC** with promotional support from the Telemundo Network including week-long promotions and live, on-site coverage.

“Over 30% of patients being treated for high cholesterol aren’t getting to goal-and it’s even worse for patients who are considered ‘high risk,” said Andy Izquierdo, Director of Public Relations at AstraZeneca. “In addition, the rates of heart disease among Hispanics underscore the need for additional help and increased awareness of cardiovascular risks and how to manage them. We’re very pleased to provide access to Heart Healthy Day screenings to this community and encourage participants to talk with their doctor about their results.”

For more information about the Heart Healthy Day on February 25th please call 1-800-640-5881.

About High Cholesterol

According to the American Heart Association, an estimated 100 million Americans have total blood cholesterol values of 200 mg/dL and higher and about 40 million American adults have levels of 240 or above – the point at which it becomes a major risk factor for coronary heart disease and stroke. The National Cholesterol Education Program interim guidelines encourage physicians to help patients at moderate and very high risk for cardiovascular disease to reach even lower LDL or “bad cholesterol” levels than previously identified.

About Heart Disease

High blood pressure and elevated cholesterol are risk factors for coronary heart disease which is the nation’s single leading cause of death. Cardiovascular disease (including heart disease and stroke) claims more than 930,000 lives each year.

About the National Latina Health Network (NLHN)

Established in 1997, the National Latina Health Network is a growing network of organizations and individuals dedicated to improving the quality of health among Latinas and their families. It is a unique organization of health experts who are connected and active in community-based program development and policy and research. The NLHN provides innovative health programming to local and regional agencies. The NLHN brings together, and is committed to, strengthening and supporting a network of Latina leaders in public health.

About AstraZeneca

Through its 40 years of cardiovascular experience, AstraZeneca has developed a robust portfolio of products for high cholesterol, high blood pressure and heart failure including CRESTOR®, ATACAND® and TOPROL-XL®. AstraZeneca is a major international healthcare business engaged in the research, development, manufacture and marketing of prescription pharmaceuticals and the supply of healthcare services. It is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies with healthcare sales of over \$21.4 billion and leading positions in sales of gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, respiratory, oncology and neuroscience products. In the United States, AstraZeneca is a \$9.6 billion healthcare business with more than 12,000 employees. AstraZeneca is listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Global) as well as the FTSE4Good Index.

For more information about AstraZeneca, please visit: www.astrazeneca-us.com

<http://www.americanheart.org/downloadable/heart/1106341997945KowFcgtSheet05.pdf>