



**Forum for
Collaborative HIV Research**

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Dr. Monica Ruiz Named Director of Prevention Research Program At Forum for Collaborative HIV Research

WASHINGTON, DC (July 28, 2008)—The Forum for Collaborative HIV Research today announced the appointment of Monica Ruiz, PhD, MPH, as Director of the Prevention Research Program at the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research, an independent public-private partnership comprised of academic researchers, patient advocates, government officials and industry representatives. Ruiz, who has been serving on the Forum's Executive Committee, assumes her new post today.

Ruiz will manage projects, both at the national and international level, related to biomedical prevention research—a relatively new area for The Forum, which has traditionally focused on treatment research issues.

"I am immensely pleased to have Dr. Ruiz joining us as director of this new program at the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research," said Veronica Miller, PhD, Executive Director of the Forum. "HIV prevention research is critical to advancing our efforts to fight the AIDS epidemic, and the extensive insight and expertise in this field that Dr. Ruiz brings to this position will be invaluable to the Forum's work."

Among her projects as Director, Dr. Ruiz will manage the newly established PrEP Trials Working Group and be heavily involved in the Forum's 2008 National Summit on HIV Diagnosis, Prevention, and Access to Care, to be held in Arlington, VA on November 19-21.

remarking on her appointment, Dr. Ruiz said, "I am so excited to be joining Veronica Miller and the team in this new capacity at the Forum. HIV prevention research has been one of my passions for a long time. And, after working outside of the research world for several years, I am thrilled to be returning to it. Coming to the Forum now feels like coming back home, and I hope I can contribute as much to the organization as it has already given to me and to the field."

Dr. Ruiz, an expert in HIV/AIDS research and policy, comes to the Forum after serving for two years as Acting Director, and prior to that as Deputy Director, of the Public Policy Office at amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research. She also spent four years as a Health Scientist Administrator, Program Officer & Acting Branch Chief (and prior to that as Deputy Branch Chief) at the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Division of AIDS, Prevention Sciences Branch. In addition, Dr. Ruiz was a Senior Program Officer at the Institute of Medicine's National Academy of Sciences. She earned her Masters of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley and her Doctorate of Philosophy in

Preventive Medicine from the University of Southern California School of Medicine in Los Angeles.

“The Forum is so fortunate to have someone as accomplished and experienced as Dr. Ruiz join its team,” said Jim Rooney, MD, co-chair of the Forum’s Executive Committee and Vice President of Clinical Research at Gilead Sciences. “We are excited to work with her to advance this incredibly important research.”

The Forum for Collaborative HIV Research is an independent public-private partnership whose mission is to facilitate discussion on emerging issues in HIV clinical research and the transfer of research results into care. It is comprised of international experts from government agencies, pharmaceutical companies, academia, advocacy and community organizations, and private foundations. The Forum is housed in the Department of Prevention and Community Health at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.