



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

May 5, 2003

Greetings,

- As we join today with Hispanic communities across the United States to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, it is fitting to renew our commitment to helping our families and neighbors to achieve good health.

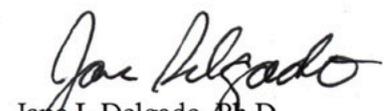
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is a concerned and active participant in the effort to eliminate health disparities. FDA is one of the nation's oldest and most respected consumer protection agencies. Its mission is to promote and protect the public health by helping safe and effective products reach the market in a timely way, and monitoring products for continued safety after they are in use. Every day, every American consumer comes in contact with a host of FDA-regulated products. Consumers experience FDA's contributions to good health every time they read the food label to make smart, healthy decisions about the food that they buy and eat; when safe and effective vaccines are available to safeguard their children from deadly diseases; when women can safely use mammography and pap smears to obtain reliable information about cancer risks; and every time consumers talk with their doctor and pharmacist to make informed decisions about the safe use of the medicine that they are prescribed or buy over-the-counter.

There is no doubt that the actions FDA takes and the information that it develops can help consumers to prevent diseases, manage chronic conditions, and improve their health. FDA and the National Alliance for Hispanic Health have made a commitment to work closely together to strengthen the participation of the Hispanic community in FDA activities to design meaningful and effective programs for reaching Hispanic consumers with the best health information.

Through this collaboration, we look forward to achieving a closer working relationship between the Agency and leaders in Hispanic communities across the country as well as with academic institutions and professional associations; expanded consumer access to bilingual health information such as the consumer information that is currently available on the FDA web page (<http://www.fda.gov> and in Spanish <http://www.fda.gov/oc/spanish/>) and on the newly launched bilingual toll-free helpline *Su Familia* (1-866-SU-FAMILIA or 1-866-783-2645) developed and managed by the National Alliance for Hispanic Health; and an enhanced, ongoing dialogue between the Agency and Hispanic leaders throughout the country on key public health issues.

We extend our best wishes to you for a joyous Cinco de Mayo celebration. We look forward to working with you to support the efforts of Hispanic communities across the country to build a healthier future.

Sincerely,


Jane L. Delgado, Ph.D.
President and CEO
National Alliance for Hispanic Health


Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration