

STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF Ciro Sumaya, MD, MPHTM

Ciro Valent Sumaya M.D., M.P.H.T.M., former Chairman, NHMA Board of Directors, age 78 passed away in San Antonio, Texas on Dec. 1, 2019.

Dr. Sumaya worked at the White House in 1993 where he met Dr. Elena Rios, both participating in the meetings of physicians and other health professionals from across the nation that developed policy recommendations for health care reform. A core group was interested in developing the National Hispanic Medical Association and Dr. Sumaya encouraged their efforts to obtain nonprofit status in 1994. That same year, Dr. Sumaya received a Presidential appointment to serve as Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for 2 years and then as Deputy Assistant Secretary to focus on academic health centers future. While in Washington, DC, he supported the NHMA with guidance for the first cooperative agreement that allowed NHMA to develop its Leadership Fellowship for Physicians, Resident Leadership Program, Medical Student Mentorship, first Regional Meetings and Advisory Council and its first Annual Conference and support for the medical student participation.

Dr. Sumaya was presented with the Hispanic Leadership Award in 1995 by NHMA Board of Directors in Washington, DC for his dedication and leadership for the development of the initial infrastructure and programs of the organization. In 2007, Dr. Sumaya was appointed to the NHMA Board and became the second Chairman and led the organization to develop with key board member invitations as well as with the plans for academic mentoring and research activities. He was an outstanding role model for many Hispanic physicians and supported many on their pathways.

Ciro graduated as Valedictorian from Brownsville High School and was a Phi Beta Kappa and high honors graduate of The University of Texas at Austin. While attending medical school at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston he met his beloved wife Carmen Gonzalez. After earning his

M.D., Ciro completed a rotating internship at The University of Southern California followed by service in the U.S. Air Force as a General Medical Officer. He then completed a dual pediatric infectious disease postgraduate fellowship and Master in Public Health and Tropical Medicine degree at Tulane University School of Medicine and School of Public Health.

He began his academic medical career at the School of Medicine at The University of California at Los Angeles, followed by an appointment at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) where he obtained the rank of Professor of Pediatrics and Chief, Infectious Diseases Division, Pediatrics Department. Dr. Sumaya's biomedical research led him to be a leading physician-scientist in viral infections in children. He published 82 articles and 26 book chapters in the field of infectious disease, provided scientific presentations and served on research advisory committees.

Dr. Sumaya also served as the Associate Dean for Affiliated Programs and Continuing Medical Education at UTHSCSA and led the American Health Education Center (AHEC) of South Texas prior to working at the White House.

In 1997, he was appointed Founding Dean of the School of Rural Public Health and Cox Endowed Chair in Medicine within the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center in College Station, Texas. He served on the board of Trustees of Ascension Health, and more recently he was appointed by the Governor of Texas to the Gulf Initiative Research Board and served on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices at The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.