

NHMA convened a Congressional Briefing: Cholesterol and Heart Disease among Hispanics on July 25th with Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL) and Congressman Tony Cárdenas (CA) welcoming and challenging the audience to consider that research should be about our communities and we need to develop culturally competent programs to educate our communities on prevention and treatment of cholesterol.

Dr. Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, FACP, President and CEO of NHMA started the briefing and told the audience of 100 Congress staff and national advocates on the important role of NHMA and the briefing's partners, Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. (ABC), Alliance for Patient Access (AfPA), and the National Minority Cardiovascular Alliance (NMCA) in taking up the challenge to advocate for heart disease – the number one killer in the U.S. Speakers addressed the important research from the Study of Latinos (Dr. Carlos Rodriguez, MD, MPH, FAHA, FACC), the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (Director Dr. Gary Gibbons, MD) and the Food and Drug Administration Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (Director CAPT Richardae Araujo, PharmD, MS).

Key messages included the importance of research opportunities and programs that need our support to continue to address the rising cholesterol and heart disease in our communities.