

Good afternoon and welcome to the 10th Border Health Information for Action Event. My name is Jill Guernsey de Zapien, from the University of Arizona, College of Public Health. For many years from the mid 90s through 2012, Sonora and Arizona collaborated to organize and implement this event with the hopes of building stronger binational networks and partnerships. Beginning in 2014, we formed our Binational Collaboration Network for Building Healthy Communities in the Sonora-Arizona region and have had meetings twice a year to share our programs, research, collaborations and dreams for strengthening the health of our shared region. The network has over 130 members and we hope that if this is your first time connecting with the network that you will be actively involved over the next year. Our network is open to anyone who is actively working to improve the health of our border region.

Our event today has one overarching purpose and that is to strengthen binational collaboration in the Arizona-Sonora region. Of course, we are excited to hear about your work, your ideas, and your visions, but more than anything we hope that you will use this opportunity to renew existing contacts, make new contacts and look for innovative ways to work together.

I certainly do not have to tell anyone in this room about the challenges facing our region today and the need for strengthening binational collaboration. We have specifically invited keynote speakers who will examine issues that we all need to be thinking about and gaining tools for action. Our first key note speakers will focus on Human rights, migration and health, and if ever there was a time and place to recognize and validate the human right to health, it is certainly today and in our shared border region. Our second keynote speakers

will focus on citizen science, and again if ever there was a time to recognize that health is everyone's business and that everyone needs tools to build healthy communities it is now!

We greatly appreciate the work of so many organizations and individuals who have contributed in kind and direct support for this event and in the interest of time, we ask that you take a glance at the second to last page of your program where we recognize all of those organizations and individuals. You will see that over 14 organizations are supporting this event, which again speaks to the times we are living in and the need and interest in binational collaboration.

We also greatly appreciate that both the Secretaria de Salud de Sonora and Arizona Department of Health Services recognize and support the work we are doing. We are very pleased to have both Dr. Gerardo Alvarez,

Director General de Promocion a la Salud y Prevencion
de Enfermedades de la the Secretaria de Salud of Sonora
and Robert Guerrero, Chief, Office of Border Health
Arizona Department of Health Services with us.

My colleague, Dr. Aline Gomez, from Universidad del
Valle de Mexico will also make a few comments as we
begin the afternoon.