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## UCSF SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY FACULTY MEMBER NAMED TO FEDERAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Francisco Ramos-Gomez, an Associate Professor at the UCSF School of Dentistry, has been named a participant in the Department of Health and Human Services' 15th Annual Primary Health Care Policy Fellowship, an intensive six-month program that seeks to teach participants about primary health care policy, the legislative process and resource identification.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which administers the program, invites between 30 and 35 primary care health practitioners and academics with five to ten years professional experience to participate in the nationwide fellowship, which includes three weeks of on-site training in Washington, D.C. Fellows examine a host of federal primary health care programs and the federal legislative process and would make recommendations to the new Secretary of Health.

Ramos-Gomez, DDS, MS, MPH, was nominated for inclusion in the fellowship by the Hispanic Dental Association (HDA), one of 70 organizations asked to nominate participants by the HRSA. He was one of just five dentists nominated nationwide, and was the first Latino dentist to be selected for this program.

"I am honored to be able to represent not just the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Hispanic Dental Association, which nominated me for this program, but also the UCSF School of Dentistry which has supported me throughout my career," Ramos-Gomez said. "I anticipate learning more about policy and access issues in pediatric dentistry and the legislative process, and relish the opportunity to bring that knowledge back to the UCSF campus. My goals include advancing the initiatives spelled out in the Surgeon's General report on Oral Health, exploring ways to increase universal access to dental health care, and improving the integration of oral health into primary care," Ramos-Gomez said.

According to Jane Weintraub, who is not only chair of the division of Oral Epidemiology and Dental Public Health and the Lee Hysan Professor, but also an alumnus of the fellowship program, "it is a wonderful and important opportunity to work collaboratively with colleagues from multiple primary care disciplines, and learn first-hand from policy-makers and experts in Washington."

According to the HRSA's website, the purpose of the fellowship is to provide a unique learning experience for early-to-mid-career professionals in any combination of primary health; care/service, academics, research, and administration. The goal of the program is to increase the capabilities of primary health care leaders to affect health policy at institutional, local, state and national levels.

Nominees are selected due to their commitment to primary health care, potential to utilize and actively contribute to the fellowship experience, current and future leadership potential within primary health care, management experience and constituency representation.

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