López-De Fede Accepts Appointment to National Advisory Council

Columbia, SC – Dr. Ana López-De Fede, Director of the Division for Health and Family Studies at the Institute for Families in Society, has accepted an invitation from the National Coalition for Elimination of Tuberculosis (NCET) to serve on the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (ACET). She will be one of only two members on the Council without an official government or agency affiliation, such as the US Secretary of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The invitation was a result of Dr. López-De Fede’s participation in the "TB in America: Disparities in the Southeast" consultation for the NCET. She and Dr. Muriel Harris, Research Associate Professor at the Institute, are currently working on a study for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, funded by the CDC, whose goal is to identify the knowledge, beliefs, and values of African Americans diagnosed or at-risk for tuberculosis in South Carolina. “It is an honor to have our work recognized and join such prestigious company,” says Dr. López-De Fede. “But most of all, we are helping to contribute to an understanding of the issues facing rural African Americans.” López-De Fede adds, “this is at the core of our mission at the Institute for Families in Society – to enhance the well being of families, particularly those who face special risks or challenges, through research, education, technical assistance and consultation at community, state, national and international levels. I welcome this opportunity to fulfill our mission and expand our national work.”

The Coalition is organized exclusively for public health, scientific and educational purposes. The organization's specific objectives are to
1. serve as a channel of scientific and public health knowledge for
   the public and policy makers on the status of tuberculosis
   elimination globally, nationally and at state and local levels.

2. educate the public and policy makers about the need for
   sustaining community public health activities for the
   elimination of tuberculosis, including development of new
   tools.

3. provide a framework for increasing community participation in
   the national tuberculosis elimination effort, with emphasis on
   building awareness in and participation of "at risk"
   populations.

For questions or additional comments, please contact Renée Gibson, Public Information Director at the
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