

## **Vivir a Todo Pulmón Fotonovela Development and Evaluation**

**Louis Carrillo**

### **Social & Behavioral Sciences**

#### **Background:**

Fotonovelas have been an effective tool for raising awareness about health issues and were deemed appropriate to fill the need for educational materials targeting Spanish speaking foreign-born individuals regarding tuberculosis (TB). In 2009 the ¡Vivir a Todo Pulmón! Fotonovela series was developed. An extensive evaluation identified a need for additional topics to address issues of concern in this population.

#### **Methods:**

A new chapter was developed focusing on TB medication adverse reactions and adherence. Main messages, story lines and accompanying images were chosen and approved by the Project Advisor Committee. The decision was made to present chapters as individual booklets and to include an introductory summary and “quick facts.” Following committee approval, the materials were deemed ready for an assessment by community members.

Previous chapters had been evaluated by focus groups and a similar format was adopted for these additions. Discussions concentrated on message clarity, appearance, feelings generated by the images, acceptability, and relevance of the message to the community. Participants were asked for their feedback related to the individual booklets as stand-alone items and whether introductory summaries provide sufficient context for readers.

#### **Results:**

Overall the materials were well regarded and the group praised the infusion of their culture into the materials. Specifically the chapters and “quickfacts” were deemed clear and important messages. With knowledge gains on symptoms and a clear collaborative relationship with healthcare workers mentioned as highlights. The introduction however needs to better explain diagnostic testing and latent infections. In addition like any TB material addressing this population, every chapter needs to explicitly address the BCG Vaccine misconception.

#### **Conclusions:**

Minor revisions are needed but our message of adherence, perseverance, and collaboration is well understood and something the community thinks is important for general well-being. And with continuous community involvement these educational materials will enjoy a successful national launch in June.

