

Fixing Paco and MNITF Fact Sheet

Fixing Paco

- *Fixing Paco* is a 10-episode telenovela hybrid style series created and produced by the Mendez National Institute of Transplantation Foundation (MNITF) to provide vital information about kidney transplantation and maintenance to Latinos and those with end-stage renal disease (ESRD).
- *Fixing Paco* was created with the Latino community as its primary target audience with a culturally sensitive plot and native language to help seamlessly communicate the key educational points.
- Prior to *Fixing Paco*, nothing existed to meet the educational needs of Latinos on dialysis in such an engaging, entertaining format and *Fixing Paco* will help meet those needs.
- *Fixing Paco* will be available on the Internet as a web series to provide worldwide access to education about kidney transplantation and living donation.
- Funded by the UniHealth Foundation, *Fixing Paco* won 2012 Best Webisode at the Reel Rasquache Art & Film Festival in East Los Angeles. This international festival showcases films about the U.S. Latino experience. Also, won 2013 People's Telly Award for Best Web Series.
- Nominations included 2013 Imagen Awards Best Web Series: Drama and 2014 Imagen Awards Best Web Series: Drama, Comedy and Reality Informational.

Fixing Paco Storyline and Cast

- *Fixing Paco* follows the Fuentes family's triumph in battling kidney failure.
- It is a fictional story intended to educate dialysis patients and their families about the treatment option of transplantation, including living donation, and being proactive in their healthcare.
- *Fixing Paco* delivers some heart wrenching and powerful performances by Paul Rodriguez, Emmy-winning actress Marabina Jaimes, Gloria Garayua, Soledad St. Hilaire and Ingrid Oliu.
- The series also stars Christian Chavez, Alfredo Avila, Carolyn Wilson, Alejandro de Hoyes, Alfonso di Luca, Jocelyn Aguilar, and Adrian Gonzales.
- Award-winning filmmaker/producer Joe Camareno directed *Fixing Paco*.

Latino Statistics

- Forty-seven percent (47%) of the dialysis population in Southern California is Latino, and there is a dire need for material that is culturally relevant.
- According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), almost half of the patients on the waiting list for a transplant in the greater Los Angeles area are Latino. Diabetes and high blood pressure are the main culprits, making kidneys the organ in demand in the Latino community.
- At a national level, there are more than 20,000 Latinos currently awaiting an organ transplant.

Fixing Paco Evaluation

- Evaluation assessed the *Fixing Paco* series impact on viewer's knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about transplantation. Participants included dialysis patients and family members at dialysis centers in Los Angeles and USC Abdominal Transplant Center.
- "*Fixing Paco*" patients and family members showed improvement in knowledge about transplantation process and proactive behavioral intentions relative to the control group.

Mendez National Institute of Transplantation Foundation (MNITF)

- The Mendez National Institute of Transplantation Foundation (MNITF) is a public non-profit organization, dedicated to its founding mission: To advance the science and practice of organ



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transplantation through research, education, and innovation. MNIT founded in 1984 merged with MNITF in 2014.

- **Research:** One of the main initiatives MNITF has undertaken since merging with MNIT is the launch of its new Research Grant Program (RGP), which awards grants semiannually to researchers in order to improve clinical outcomes and positively impact the field of transplantation.
- The MNITF's research excellence is manifested by our awards and strong publication record in scientific literature, which has helped change clinical practice worldwide and advance the practice of transplantation.
- **Education:** The MNIT's commitment to education and outreach has resulted in successful community patient education programs in Southern California, which target underserved populations to increase awareness and access to transplantation. These programs have several objectives:
 - To reduce the incidence of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) by identifying populations at risk for diabetes and hypertension and educating them in disease prevention.
 - To increase awareness of and access to organ transplantation as a treatment option that can lead to improved quality of life.
 - To encourage patients to maintain their health while waiting for an organ and to become more proactive in their healthcare.
 - To spread awareness about the importance of donating organs that can save lives.
 - To improve the survival rate of transplanted organs by making recipients well informed about the commitment they must make in caring for the new organ.
- **Innovation:** Over many years the MNITF has contributed to major advances, such as the use of young and old donors; transplantation across the ABO barrier; absorbing antigraft antibodies and the development of immunosuppressive protocols; work on xenoantibodies; islet encapsulation; and innovative application of new technologies to detect donor-transmitted infections such as hepatitis, HIV, Chagas disease and West Nile Virus which has brought a real world difference to patients. These advances are part of our continuing mission to develop and bring new clinical and basic developments to the transplant community.

MNITF's One-on-One Program

- MNITF offers a comprehensive education program specifically for dialysis patients about the treatment option of transplantation.
- The program provides dialysis patients with personalized one-on-one education and support from specially trained organ transplant recipients known as Peer Educators.
- The program's success can be largely attributed to the personalized communication between patients and Peer Educators.
- Peer Educators inform dialysis patients and empower them to be proactive about their own health.
- Peer Educators provide patients with extensive information regarding organ transplantation as an effective and long-term option that can greatly improve quality of life.
- One-on-One Program achieving its goals: (Based on a 2007 program survey)
 - 86% of patients surveyed gained a better understanding of kidney transplantation
 - 90% of patients surveyed gained an awareness of the tremendous commitment that caring for a transplanted organ takes
 - 92% of patients surveyed recommended the program to other patients