**Editors’ Note:** Former president of the University of Texas at Brownsville, Olivarez spoke Thursday morning at a news conference in Brownsville to announce the first case of Zika. This is certainly a sad development of the situation, but we can’t solve the problems of the world, or even of Texas. So how can we help? The solution to sharing this burden should be a more workable solution to sharing the burden of this and other harmful tropical illnesses.

**Olivarez said:** "We need to work together, not just because we’re going to have to work together, but because we’re going to have to work together to protect public health in the United States. Without such a system in place, if we need to work together, it’s going to happen. We have to work together, Nature, but we want to work together because we’re going to work together to make it happen. We want to see a system that enhances the ability of us, as a nation, to detect infectious disease outbreaks.

The meeting is about the difficulties that we have contributed to this problem. And while the Zika virus undeniably will be on everyone’s mind, Olivarez told us on Friday that we must interact with the public to open up discussions on the need to be communicative about dangerous disease like Zika.

Olivarez, who is former president of the U.S. Border State Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance (EWIDS) Project that enhances the ability of us, as a nation, to detect infectious disease outbreaks, told us that with the current system in place, if we need to work together, it’s going to happen. We have to work together, Nature, but we want to work together because we’re going to work together to make it happen. We want to see a system that enhances the ability of us, as a nation, to detect infectious disease outbreaks.

**Conclusions:**

- **Border health:** Hidalgo County leading way in international dialogue to combat Zika virus here

*Editor’s Note:* The Rio Grande Valley News Monitor does not endorse political candidates or political parties. For editorial purposes only, we publish guest columns. As regular columns are subject to editing for style, grammar and context, we ask that all submissions have a one-sentence biography along with a phone number. Submissions without these items will not be considered.

**Guest Columns**

**Guest columnist:** Sandra Sanchez

**Contact:** Sandra Sanchez (956) 683-4461 | ssanchez@themonitor.com

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** At left, Dr. Juliet Garcia, former president of the University of Texas at Brownsville.

- **Commentary: Dr. Juliet Garcia**

---

**Olivarez**