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## **Embassy of the United States of America Public Affairs Section**

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January 11, 2013

### **U.S. Embassy Clarification on High Altitude Scientific Studies**

Regarding recent press reports about a 2012 visit to Bolivia by Professor Robert Corwine Roach, Director of the Altitude Research Center of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, the U.S. Embassy would like to clarify the following:

In 2012, Professor Roach led a team of international scientists to Bolivia to study basic molecular processes in high altitude acclimatization. Professor Roach's research followed a group of college students from Eugene, Oregon, while they developed adjustments that may protect them from the effects of a low-oxygen environment. Low oxygen is a threat factor in many heart and lung diseases and it is a contributing factor to the growth of many kinds of cancer. The results of Professor Roach's research will benefit those living at high altitude around the world, including Bolivians.

The Universidad Mayor de San Andrés Cosmic Physics Institute collaborated with Professor Roach by preparing the workplace and providing other resources to him and his team in Bolivia. All coordination between UMSA and Professor Roach was conducted in a manner consistent with the highest scientific research standards.

Professor Roach funds his research with donations from a variety of non-university sources, both public and private. While this particular civilian project received a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense, the study was not conducted by the U.S. Government or the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia. Neither the scientists who conducted the research nor the participating individuals were employees of the U.S. Government or Armed Forces.

The United States Government is committed to working together with the Government of Bolivia to further strengthen our bilateral relationship. The Framework Agreement between our two countries provides an excellent opportunity to facilitate a constructive dialogue to that end.