

# Researcher At The Institute Of Neurobiology Wins Prestigious Nih Award

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**SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, The RCMI Program is pleased to announce that Joshua Rosenthal, Ph.D.**, from the Institute of Neurobiology at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, teamed up with Gail Mandel, Ph.D.; John Adelman, Ph.D.; and Paul Brehm, Ph.D., from the Vollum Institute at Oregon Health & Science University, to obtain one of 10 Transformative Research Awards — one of the four High Risk-High Reward award categories — for their project to develop a novel strategy to recode molecules in cells to fix mutations in faulty genes. The group is using several models systems and different diseases to optimize repair of genetic mutations.

The Transformative Research Awards promote interdisciplinary approaches and supports individual scientists or teams of investigators who propose exceptionally innovative research that has the potential "to create or overturn fundamental paradigms," according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The basis for this award was a recent article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, whose first author was **Maria Fernanda Montiel-Gonzalez**, a Ph.D. Student in the Department of Biochemistry Department at University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus (<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/10/08/1306243110> ). Part of the infrastructure for the study was provided by the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (RCMI Grants No. G12-RR003051 and G12-MD 007600).

"The publication has received national attention and was highlighted by the New England Journal of Medicine as a significant step toward making a reality the repair of specific mistakes in the protein-making machinery of patient using nanomachines" said Dr. Rosenthal, praising the talent of his doctoral student and the benefits of collaborative research (<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMcibr1313514> ).

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**About of the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD):** The CCRHD focuses on the development of a more efficient and competitive research infrastructure to carry out basic, clinical and translational studies in health disparities affecting the Puerto Rican population. It includes five research facilities and six activities which provide administrative and research development support to investigators at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. For more information about CCRHD and its facilities and projects, please visit <http://rcmi.rcm.upr.edu> .

**About the Institute of Neurobiology (INB)** at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus: The INB, founded in 1967, is a multidisciplinary interdepartmental facility dedicated to the study of nervous system structure and function. Its eleven laboratories utilize a variety of model systems to address some of the most challenging issues facing modern Neuroscience – ranging from synapse development and specification in *Drosophila* to the molecular basis of addiction. The Institute of Neurobiology houses a Neuroimaging Core (confocal, live imaging, electron microscopy), a shared Molecular Neurobiology Core, and a Neurogenetics Core. Facilities are available for short and long-term visits by scientists and students.

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