

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As part of the initiative "United Against Zika", a workshop was conducted at the Manuel A. Perez housing project. The workshop



organized by Dr. Deborah Juarbe, RCMI Pilot Project investigator, demonstrated to residents and maintenance employees how to construct mosquito traps in order to prevent Zika virus infection. A confer-

ence on Zika virus prevention and control preceded the workshop which was attended by 65 residents. Dr. Juarbe has been able to establish a partnership with this community which evolved from conversations between a key community leader of the Manuel A. Perez housing project and investigators from the Graduate School of Public Health, UPR Medical Sciences Campus. Evaluation results and follow-up data demonstrated significant positive changes in respondents' recognition of personal and community responsibility for the prevention of Zika infection, increased knowledge of prevention strategies, and enhanced engagement in preventive behaviors for mosquito control. Results of the activities sponsored by the Pilot Project are shared with the Community Advisory Board.



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER / STTR WORKSHOP

The Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust is sponsoring a series of events to disseminate information about funding opportunities available to investigators to commercialize discoveries. The events include several workshops followed by a 'match-making' experience. According to Dr. Juan Figueroa, organizer of the activity, it is expected that participants will be able to familiarize with the procedures and steps required to participate in the **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)** and **Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)** programs offered by various agencies of the federal government. Investigators of the RCMI Program participated in the workshops and plan to attend the "match-making" event.

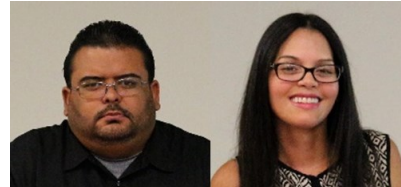
RESEARCHER-SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOPS AND MATCHMAKING



SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

SEMINAR SERIES

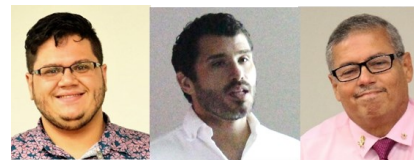
Biochemistry Research Education Design



Eric Calderón, and Ednalise Santiago
August 15, 2017



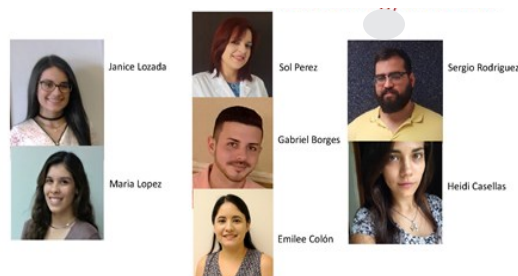
Ailed Cruz and Héctor Jirau
August 22, 2017



Jorge Martínez, Ramón Gómez and Nelson Martínez
August 29, 2017

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER-SKILLS COURSE

Six graduate students and one post-doctoral fellow are participating in the course "Survival Skills in Technology Transfer". The overall goal of the course is to provide participants with the information and experiences necessary to successfully transfer scientific knowledge into product development and commercialization. Course activities include lecture presentations, focus groups and special projects, as well as seminars and workshops by invited speakers. Topics of discussion relate to intellectual property protection; impact of the Bayle-Dole Act; invention disclosures, patents and licenses, academic and industry partnerships; funding sources (SBIR/STTR grants) for commercialization, and social entrepreneurship. Dr. Emma Fernández-Repollet, RCMI-PI, coordinates the course at the Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine.



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Number of national and international collaborations of RCMI investigators resulting in peer review publications from 2011-2017.

