

### RCMI PROGRAM

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### ADMINISTRATION

Emma Fernández, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator

### KEY PERSONNEL

Jorge Duconge, Ph.D.  
Pablo Vivas, Ph.D.  
Cristina Palacios, Ph.D.  
Maribel Campos, M.D.  
Carmen Vélez, Ph.D.  
Carmen Cadilla, Ph.D.  
Gregory Quirk, Ph.D.  
Loyda Meléndez, Ph.D.  
Mark Miller, Ph.D.  
Adelfa Serrano, Ph.D.  
Abiel Roche-Lima, Ph.D.  
Wilfredo De Jesús, M.D.

**138**

Number of subjects enrolled in the research project *“Adopting a Precision Medicine Paradigm in Puerto Rico: leveraging ancestral diversity to identify predictors of clopidogrel response in Caribbean Hispanics”* as of January 31, 2018.



@rcmienews

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



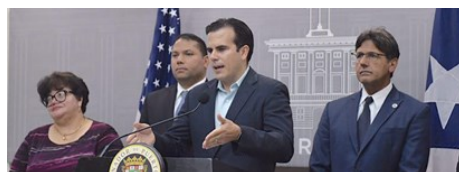
Dr. Gregory Quirk, Director of the Investigator Development Core, conducted a meeting with Pilot Project and early-stage investigators supported by the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD). The meeting focused on the progress of the research projects and the submission of grants and publications. The 5-year plan of each participant and the impact of hurricane Maria on the plan were also discussed.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



As part of the pilot project *“Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategies to Enhance Behavior Change for Zika Virus Prevention and Control”*, Dr. Deborah Juarbe organized an activity focused on how to prevent the transmission of the Zika virus at home. The event was held at Villa Calma Sector in Toa Baja, P.R., a community severely affected by hurricane Maria. Forty participants actively participated in a demonstration on how to protect their homes and neighborhood from mosquitoes. Mosquito nets and repellents were distributed at the end of the activity.

### TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER



Governor Ricardo Rosselló announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), the Science & Technology and Research Trust (PRSTRT), and the Department of Economic Development & Commerce to streamline the transfer of technology and the commercialization of intellectual property developed at the UPR. The director of the Technology Transfer Office of the PRST, David Gulley, spoke about the expectations of this alliance, which “seeks to protect these new innovation projects through patents to establish new commercialization capabilities”.



### SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



**Brian M. Barth, PhD**  
*Regulation of Sphingolipid Metabolism in Myelodysplastic Syndrome and Acute Myeloid Leukemia*  
January 16, 2018



**Valance Washington, PhD**  
*Insights into Platelet’s Role During Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome*  
January 23, 2018



**Jonathan Chernoff, MD, PhD**  
*The MST tumor Suppressor Genes: When Two Minus One Equals Three*  
January 30, 2018



**Brenda Nieves, BBA**  
*Redcap Workshop: “The Baby-Act Trial”*  
January 18, 2018



**IMPACTIVO: Alliance for Action and Research**  
*Zika and the Spectrum of Disease Symposium*  
January 26, 2018

### COLLABORATIONS & VISITS



Representatives of the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) conducted a workshop at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (PRSTRT), on January 24th. NNPHI is assisting the PRSTRT with the development of a Public Health Institute in Puerto Rico. Dr. Emma Fernandez-Repollet participated in this initial activity.



Sixteen delegates from the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation visited NIEHS research teams in Puerto Rico with the purpose of promoting humanitarian aid. The delegation also included representation from corporate corporations. Dr. Carmen Vélez, Director of the CCRHD Community Engagement Core, accompanied the delegation to visit various communities in need in Puerto Rico.