

### RCMI PROGRAM

PO Box 365067  
San Juan PR 00936-5067  
Tel: (787) 763-9401  
Fax: (787) 758-5206  
E-mail: [rcmi.rcm@upr.edu](mailto:rcmi.rcm@upr.edu)  
URL: <http://rcmi.rcm.upr.edu>

### ADMINISTRATION

Emma Fernández, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator

### KEY ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

Carmen Cadilla, Ph.D.  
Gregory Quirk, Ph.D.  
Loyda Meléndez, Ph.D.  
Mark Miller, Ph.D.  
José Rodríguez-Medina, Ph.D.  
Adelfa Serrano, Ph.D.  
José G. Conde, M.D., M.P.H.

### KEY ACTIVITY LEADERS

Marcia Carlyn, Ph.D.  
Idalí Martínez, Ph.D.  
Luis J. Montaner, D.V.M.

# 16,537

Number of confirmed Zika cases reported by the Puerto Rico Department of Health as of August 31, 2016.



@rcmienews

### NIMHD GRANT AWARD



Dr. Carlos Rodriguez, Associate Professor at the UPR-MSC School of Public Health and a participant of the RCMI Faculty Development Program, will be collaborating in a \$9.3 million award from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)

for an innovative study of eHealth interventions to prevent HIV among adolescent men who have sex with men (AMSM). The study is led by Dr. Brian Mustanski, at Northwestern University. Other collaborating institutions include Hunter College and North Carolina State University. The project emphasizes inclusion of racial/ethnic minority groups and populations that experience health disparities.

### HEALTH DISPARITIES



Dr. Emma Fernandez-Repollet, Professor and Principal Investigator of the Collaborative Center for Health Disparities at the UPR-MSC, participated on the visit of the

External Review Committee (ERC) to the Institute for Health Disparities Research (IHDR) at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) on August 19, 2016. The IHDR is directed by Dr. Thankam Sunil, whose understanding of the health issues of the region is an asset to the institute and UTSA. The Institute focuses on areas of health disparities in South Texas in which participating investigators can make significant and unique contributions. Other ERC members included Dr. Steve Murdock, Professor and Director of the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University and Dr. Robert Kirken, Dean of the College of Science and Principal Investigator of the Border Biomedical Research Center at the University of Texas at El Paso. The ERC met leadership officials, IHRD researchers, staff and students who demonstrated their commitment to their research and institute responsibilities.

### COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS



The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (CCRHD) received the visit of Dr. Tim Dye, director of the Global and Territorial

Global Health Research Network (GTHR) at the University of Rochester. Dr. Dye was accompanied by Dr. Carmen Vélez Vega, Co-leader of the Community Engagement Core of the Puerto Rico Testsite for Exploring Contamination Threats (PRoTECT) and Professor at the Graduate School of Public Health. The visit focused on the collaborative studies being conducted by investigators participating in the GTHR and PRoTECT initiatives of interest to the CCRHD.

### SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



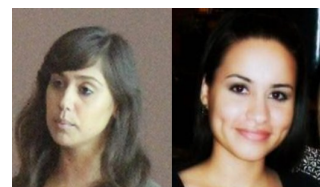
**Dr. George Perry**  
Dean College of Science  
PI, RCMI Program  
University of Texas at San Antonio  
***Role of Mitochondria in the Oxidative Stress of Alzheimer's Disease***

August 3, 2016



**Dr. Bisrat Godefay Debeb**  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
***Preclinical Insights into Brain Metastases from Breast Cancer***

August 16, 2016



**Biochemistry Research Seminar Series**  
Presenters: Jeyshka Reyes González and Yacidzohara Rodríguez Feliciano  
August 30, 2016

### GLOBAL HEALTH



Dr. Cristina Palacios, Associate Professor in the Nutrition Program of the UPR-MSC School of Public Health, was invited to serve as a consultant on vitamin D deficiency for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Switzerland from May to July 2016.

During her stay, she developed the "Planning Proposal: Guideline for the Diagnosis, Prevention and Treatment of Nutritional Rickets". In addition, she prepared and submitted a Cochrane protocol to conduct a meta-analysis entitled "Regimens of Vitamin D Supplementation for Women During Pregnancy".

**WHAT:** NRMN Southeast Training Activities  
**WHERE:** University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus in San Juan, PR  
**WHEN:** November 17- 18, 2016