

RCMI PROGRAM

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ADMINISTRATION

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KEY ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

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José Rodríguez-Medina, Ph.D.
Adelfa Serrano, Ph.D.
José G. Conde, M.D., M.P.H.

KEY ACTIVITY LEADERS

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

By the Numbers ...

100 first year medical students have been accepted by the School of Medicine for FY 2017-2018.

56 students are female and **54** students are male.

Source: Message of the Dean of Medicine to the faculty on May 16, 2017.



@rcmienews

PROMOTING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



Dr. Demetrio Sierra, Assistant Professor of the Department of Anatomy and a participant of the RCMI Faculty Development Program, in collaboration with the Association of Graduate Students of the UPR Medical Sciences Campus, organized a gathering of biomedical graduate students. The activity focused on fostering discussions and collaborations among graduate students from diverse biomedical institutions across the Island. Participating institutions included Ponce Health Sciences University, Universidad Central del Caribe and the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. The latter served as the host for the activity. Several presentations by senior investigators addressed the opportunities and challenges of conducting biomedical research in Puerto Rico. The activity concluded with a tour of the research facilities at the UPR-MS. The RCMI Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities cosponsored this special event.

RCMI PI/PD RETREAT



Principal Investigators and Programs Directors of the RCMI Program held a retreat on May 8-9th at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. The agenda included updates from the RCMI Translational Research Network (RTRN) Administrative, Research and Data Coordinating Centers, Steering Committee, Evaluation Core and Community Engagement Subcommittee. An RTRN Renewal Planning Session and RCMI Conference Grant Planning Session were also part of the agenda.

INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Maria J Crespo, Professor at the Department of Physiology, and her research team presented their research findings in the 3rd European Stroke Conference held in Prague, Czech Republic on May 16-18. The presentations focused on the mechanisms by which Dantrolene, a postsynaptic muscle relaxant, improves endothelial function and reduces arterial tone in aortic rings. The studies were conducted utilizing the Type-1 Diabetic Rat model.



SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



Dr. Demetrio Sierra
Promotion 1st Symposium: Breaking Barriers Through Collaboration
May 2, 2017



Dr. Rafael De Cabo
Dietary Interventions for Healthy Aging: Where are we now
May 12, 2017



Dr. Jessica Tyler
Epigenetic Regulation of Genomic Integrity and Aging
May 19, 2017



Dr. Antonio Osuna
Immune complexes in Chronic Chagas Disease Patients are Formed by Exovesicles from Trypanosoma-cruzi Carrying the Conserved MASP N-terminal Region
May 21, 2017



Dr. Walter Frontera
Aging of Skeletal Muscle
May 25, 2017



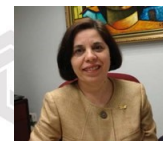
Dr. Jürgen Bosch
Protein-Protein Interaction Inhibitors in Antimalarial Drug Design
May 25, 2017



Dr. Yavin Shaham
Incubation of Drug Craving after Prolonged Voluntary Abstinence: Behavior and Circuit Mechanisms
May 25, 2017

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

MAY 27, 2017



The Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (PR Trust) held its annual *Forward Grantee Forum* on May 27th, 2017. Eng. Lucy Crespo, PR Trust CEO, and Dr. Greetchen Diaz, Research Grants Program Director, welcomed the attendees. The activity included 18 presentations by grant recipients and a panel on the *Impact of the Grant Program in the Local Research Ecosystem*. Dr. Emma Fernández-Repollet, RCMI Principal Investigator, was an invited panelist. Mr. Iván Rios, PR Trust COO, provided closing remarks. Attendees included investigators, research officials and graduate students from various universities in Puerto Rico.