

RCMI PROGRAM

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ADMINISTRATION

Emma Fernández, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

KEY ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

Carmen Cadilla, Ph.D.
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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.
Luis J. Montaner, D.V.M.

250

Number of attendees to *Biolatam 2016*, an event providing opportunities for partnerships and investment to Latin American investigators and global pharma leaders. Over 140 companies from 24 countries participated in the event.



@rcmienews

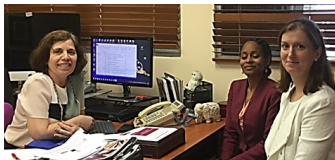
RESEARCH MENTORING NETWORK



The UPR Medical Sciences Campus hosted a Mentoring and Institutional Planning Session in collaboration with the National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) Southeast/Deep South Training Hub during November 17-18, 2016. The Research Resources and

Outreach Core (RROC) leadership team participated in the sessions, including Dr. Elizabeth Ofili, RROC Director and NRMN Multi-PI and Dr. Adriana Baez, RROC Associate Director, who hosted the event. Participating institutions included Morehouse School of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Wisconsin-Madison, St. John Fisher College and the University of Puerto Rico. Mentoring activities included grant writing training, a mentoring institutional planning forum, and a speaker series focused on helping new health equity investigators pursue research independence. A summary of the mentor activities supported by the RCMI Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities was presented by Dr. Emma Fernández-Repollet, Principal Investigator CCRHD. Over 50 investigators, doctoral fellows and administrative officials participated in the different sessions.

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS



The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities received the visit of Dr. Saria Hassan, Deputy Director, Yale Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center (TCC) for Health Disparities Research and Dr. Josefa Martinez, ECHORN Coordinating Center Director. Yale Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center also focuses on Precision Medicine as a result of a recent expansion of the Eastern Caribbean Health Outcomes Research Network (ECHORN). Potential collaborations between the different centers were discussed.

PUERTO RICO VECTOR CONTROL UNIT

The Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust announced the establishment of the Puerto Rico



Puerto Rico
Science, Technology
& Research Trust

Vector Control Unit (PRVCU) after receiving official announcement from the Center for Diseases Control & Prevention (CDC) for a collaborative agreement for this purpose. This collaborative agreement will give the Trust a \$13 million grant to create, manage and operate this unit. The PRVCU will



develop, lead, and deploy an effective integrated vector management (IVM) strategy to reduce the *Aedes aegypti* population and the burden of Zika, chikungunya, and dengue in the Island. PRVCU will carry out vector surveillance, community engagement and IVM for effective mosquito control.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



Dr. Amaya Miquelajauregui
Development and Plasticity of Neural Circuits: from Mouse Models to Human Disorders
November 1, 2016



Dr. Jorge Duconge
The Clinical Pharmacogenomics Implementation Consortium Guidelines: A necessary step toward full adoption of PM paradigm
November 15, 2016



Dr. Christoph Schaniel
Disease Modeling and Therapeutics with Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells
November 22, 2016



Dr. Jose Rodriguez-Orengo
INBRE Program: Support for Your Research: Meet all programs that may impact your research
November 29, 2016



Ms. Carol Torres
Microsoft Workshop: Maximizing the Use of Power Point
November 18, 2016

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities invited investigators interested in commercializing their discoveries to a meeting with Dr. Juan Figueroa, retired NSF Program Officer and Salvatore Casalde, Director of the UPR Office of Technology Transfer and Innovation. Topics discussed in the meeting included intellectual property protection, funding opportunities (SBIR/ STTR) and collaboration agreements.



Dr. Emma Fernández-Repollet met with participants of the RCMI Faculty Development Program to learn about their career plans and current research projects. Dr. Vivek Nerurkar, Professor and Chair, Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, who was visiting the UPR Medical Sciences Campus, joined the meeting held on November 21, 2016.