

### 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.  
Luis J. Montaner, D.V.M.

### ZIKA By the Numbers ...

**40,134** confirmed cases since 2016  
**3,524** pregnant women  
**71** cases Guillain-Barré syndrome  
**29** cases of congenital defects  
**5** deaths

Source: Puerto Rico Department of Health, ArboV Report, April 28, 2017



@rcmienews

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



To celebrate the **National Month of Minority Health 2017**, the RCMC Pilot Project, *Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategies to Enhance Behavior Change for Zika Virus Prevention and Control*, conducted two activities at the Manuel A. Pérez community on April 23 and 30, 2017. The first activity, **Zika Day**, included kiosks with information on how to prevent Zika infection offered by physicians and health promoters from the Puerto Rico Department of Health and the Centers for Diseases Control & Prevention (CDC). The event concluded with the presentation of the community leaders by the Principal Investigator of the project, Dr. Deborah Juarbe. The second activity, **"Condominium Without- Aedes"**, consisted on a theatrical play performed by young people of the Manuel A Pérez Theater Club. Sponsors of included the RCMC Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities, MAS Corporation and Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration.

### RESEARCH FORUM



The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Research and Education Forum at the UPR Medical Sciences Campus was held on April 19-21, 2017. Over 20 RCMC investigators presented their research findings in 12 oral and 25 poster sessions. In addition, 10 RCMC-associated researchers assisted in the review process. 180 abstracts were submitted for presentation. This event offers the opportunity to highlight RCMC investigations targeting health disparities.

### COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS



On April 27th, Dr. Emma Fernandez and Dr. Craig Locatis met at the National Library of Medicine to discuss the progress of their collaborative project **"Distance Health Career Mentoring"**, conducted in middle- and high- schools in Puerto Rico.



The Puerto Rico Consortium for Clinical Investigation (PRCCI) celebrated its first anniversary on April 6, 2017. Eighty representatives from the government, industry and academia attended the celebration. According to Dr. Kosmas Kretsos, *PRCCI Executive Director*, **"This event represented the essence of PRCCI: collaboration and working together to become better and stronger as a team and, as such, to build a successful future for Puerto Rico's patients, health professionals, and the economy."**

### SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



**Dr. Anita Corbett**  
*RNA-Binding Proteins in Alzheimer Disease*  
April 4, 2017



**Dr. Derek Hyra**  
*Community-Based Participatory Research: Developing Community Science*  
April 7, 2017



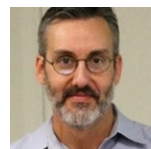
**Dr. Lan Lin Gellert**  
*Penile cancer and HPV- the Pathologist Perspective*  
April 18, 2017



**Dr. Christiaan Leewenburgh**  
*The Biology of Aging: Targets for Interventions and Current Clinical Trials*  
April 21, 2017



**Mr. Justin Lee**  
*Opportunities for Scientists at the Air Force Research Laboratory*  
April 25, 2017



**Dr. James R. Fadel**  
*The orexin/hypocretin system in aging and cognition*  
April 28, 2017

### BIOMEDICAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Dr. Abiel Roche-Lima was recognized by students participating in the Bioinformatics Laboratory and Bioinformatics Health research activities. Dr. Roche-Lima's mentoring skills and coaching encouragement were highlighted by students and colleagues.

### MARCH FOR SCIENCE—PUERTO RICO



**Saturday April 22, 2017**