

MENTORING ACTIVITIES



Dr. Luis Montaner, director of the RCMI Faculty Advancement Program visited the UPR Medical Sciences Campus to meet with the seven investigators participating in the program since

October 2016. The meeting included presentations of research projects by the investigators and discussion of career plans for the next five years. Investigators participating in the 2016 program are: Maribel Campos-Rivera, MD, Abiel Roche-Lima, PhD, Emilee Colón, PhD, Lynette Bueno, PhD, Deborah Juarbe-Rey, PhD, Carlos E. Rodríguez-Díaz, PhD, and José Colón., PhD. Dr. Montaner will submit to RCMI Principal Investigator, a comprehensive report of his visit which will include his recommendations and initial assessment of participating investigators, as well as the mentoring plan for the current fiscal year.

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS



Dr. Emma Fernández Repollet, Principal Investigator of the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities met with Ms. Leslie

Maas Cortes, Program Manager, Brain Trust for Tropical Disease Research and Prevention, Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust, and investigators interested in Zika virus research. The latter group included Dr. Cecília A. Marques Toledo, Executive and Scientific Director, Evotec, Brazil; Dr. Adelfa Serrano, Director of the RCMI Infectious Diseases Laboratory and Dr. Emilee Colón, current participant of the RCMI Pilot Project Program at the UPR Medical Sciences Campus. Potential research collaborations related to the local transmission of Zika virus infection were discussed. Dr. Marques Toledo was a guest speaker at the *Biolatam 2016* conference while Ms. Maas Cortes is actively involved with the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit (PRVCU) recently funded by the Center for Diseases Control & Prevention (CDC).

CONGRATULATIONS

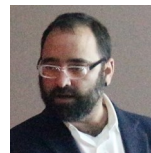


The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities congratulates Dr. Walmor De Mello on his designation as Distinguished Professor of the UPR Medical Sciences Campus. Dr. De Mello is recognized worldwide for his contributions in the fields of cell-to-cell communication in the heart and the role of intracellular angiotensin II as a regulator of muscle tone in vascular resistance vessels. He has edited 9 books and authored over 220 articles. Dr. De Mello has participated in the RCMI Program as an investigator and postdoctoral mentor. Our congratulations to an exemplary scholar!

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



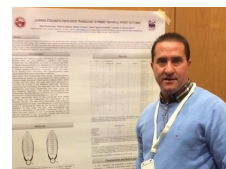
Dr. Juan Sánchez-Ramos
Huntington's Disease: From the Venezuela Project to the "Cure"
December 5, 2016



Dr. José A. Rodríguez-Martínez
Exploring the DNA Binding Specificity of Human Transcription Factors and Synthetic Genome Readers
December 13, 2016



Dr. Antonio Mignucci
Sigma Xi Lecture: Manatees as Sentinels of Coastal Health
December 20, 2016



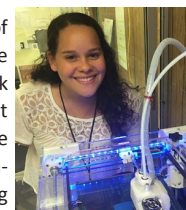
Dr. Abiel Roche Lima
Predicting Patient Outcomes Using Learning Edit Costs based on Stochastic Finite State Transducers
Barcelona, Spain
December 4, 2017

BIOMEDICAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



The Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities supported, with institutional funds, a group of high school students interested in applying 3D

technology to the development of educational materials that will promote biomedical research. After a six week training, the students were able to print 3D models of a brain, a skull, a large intestine, a device to resuscitate infants, a splint for an injured dog leg and a set of lower back vertebrae.



Workshop and training sessions were led by Amelia Fernández a fellow student. The 3D models developed by the students will be used in the educational activities to be conducted in the 2017 Biomedical Summer Internship for Middle-and High-School students. This internship is sponsored by the Puerto Rico Biomedical Education Research Program.

ZIKA PILOT PROJECTS



The Microbiota of the Zika Vector Aedes aegypti
Emilee Colón, PhD



Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategies to Enhance Behavior Change for Zika Virus Prevention and Control
Deborah Juarbe, PhD

RCMI PROGRAM

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ADMINISTRATION

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Principal Investigator

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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.

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Number of seminars and workshops sponsored by the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities during FY 2012-2016.



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